MONDAY
October 31, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

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सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Rajasthan

Model State Rajasthan
Dedicated Towards Duties

Rajasthan has emerged as a Model State in the country with its unique schemes and positive results of all the schemes started in the interest of people of state

Chief Minister Chiranjeevi Health Insurance Scheme
Free treatment up to Rs 10 lakh.
25.36 lakh patients given free treatment of Rs 2963 crore till now.

Old Pension Scheme
Old Pension Scheme (OPS) implemented for the employees appointed on and after January 1, 2004.

Low-Priced Domestic Electricity
Zero electricity bill of 38.18 lakh families.

Low-Priced electricity to farmers
No hike in agriculture electricity tariff.
Annual Subsidy of Rs. 16000 crore.

Mukhyamantri Kisan Mitra Urja Yojana
Subsidy of Rs 1000 per month to farmers on agriculture electricity connections.
Zero electricity bill of 7.85 lakh farmers.

Social Security Pension
Pension given to approximately 1 crore people including elderly people, specially-abled, widows and single women.

Palanhaar Scheme
Assistance of Rs 500 to Rs 2500 per month to orphans and other children as per eligibility, 6.51 lakh children benefitted so far.

Scooty distribution to girls
Scooty distribution to 20,000 school and college going girls every year.

Studying in abroad becomes easy
Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship for Academic Excellence - Annually the state government is bearing the cost of education of 200 students studying abroad.

Indira Gandhi Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme
Guarantee of 100 days employment in cities.
More than 3.17 lakh job cards issued till now.
State Government is providing 25 days additional employment in MGNREGA.

Government Jobs
1.32 lakh government jobs given.
1.21 lakh government recruitments in process.
1 lakh recruitments on additional posts proposed.

Ashok Gehlot
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

Indira Rasoi
Nutritious and quality food for Rs. 8.
870 Indira Rasois functional.
State government subsidy of Rs. 17 per plate.

Udaan Scheme
12 free sanitary napkins per month to girls and women.
Around 1.45 crores Adolescent Girls and Women beneficiaries.

Mahatma Gandhi English Medium Schools
Quality education in 1658 English Medium schools in the State.

Rajiv Gandhi Rural Olympic Games
Biggest sports event in the world.
Participation of around 30 lakh people.
Urban Olympic Games will also be organized.

Mukhyamantri Dugdh Udapadak Sambal Yojana
Subsidy of Rs 5 per litre to milk producers.
Subsidy of Rs 718 crore given so far.

Tablet distribution
Approximately 93,000 meritorious children will be given tablets

Development through Technology
- Unique IT Institute - Rajiv Gandhi Fintech Digital Institute, Jodhpur.
- Research on advanced technology on Medi-tech, Climate Tech and Agritech etc. in Rajasthan Institute of Advance Learning, Jaipur.
- Rajiv Gandhi Knowledge Innovation Hub at Jaipur, Jodhpur and Kota for Plug and Play facility for Startups
- Finishing School - R-CAT.

Department of Information and Public Relations, Rajasthan

Rajasthan Samwad

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NEW INITIATIVE

PM kicks off defence manufacturing unit

NEWS » PAGE 14

SHINING BRIGHT

Ngidi, Miller star as SA beats India

SPORT » PAGE 17

BJP'S POACHING BID

KCR vows to produce proof in coming days

SOUTH » PAGE 9

GUJARAT ASSEMBLY ELECTION

The mind of the Gujarat voter

First of a five-part series of findings by Lokniti-CSDS

OPINION » PAGE 11

CHAMPIONS

Chirag-Satwik duo wins French Open

SPORT » PAGE 17

Pothole accident triggers political storm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A student was killed when a car allegedly tried to navigate a bad stretch of road in Yelahanka on Saturday night. The traffic police have booked a case against the civic officials.

This is the second such accident owing to potholes in the city this month. This comes amidst the government's push to beautify Bengaluru ahead of the global investors' meet scheduled to be held from November 2 to 4.

The Opposition Congress has hit out at the BJP government over the accident. Randeep Singh Surjewala, AICC general secretary in-charge Karnataka, termed the accident "shocking and shameful" and called the State government "Pothole Bommai Sarkar".

DETAILS
» PAGE 2

90 drown in Gujarat river as suspension bridge collapses

More than 350 people were on the bridge which was reopened four days ago after repairs and renovation done by a private trust; PM, CM announce compensation for victims; probe ordered

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

At least 90 were killed after more than 350 people fell into the Machchu river when a newly renovated colonial-era suspension bridge collapsed on Sunday evening in Morbi town of Gujarat.

Brijesh Merja, Morbi MLA and Minister, who confirmed the death toll, said the death toll was likely to go up.

The bridge, which was reopened four days ago after repairs and renovation by a private trust, collapsed around 6.30 p.m., officials said. The bridge has not reportedly received the fitness certificate from civic authorities.

Due to the Deepavali vacation and being a Sunday, there was a rush of people on the bridge, a major tourist attraction.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Ministerial colleagues rushed to Morbi to oversee the rescue. Several teams of the National Disaster Response Force and personnel of the Navy and the Air Force have been ordered to be airlifted to the site.

Skeletal structure: Rescue operation underway after a suspension bridge over the Machchhu river in Morbi district of Gujarat collapsed on Sunday evening. PTI

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Demand grows, but DNA tests fall under a grey area

Krishnadas Rajagopal
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court had said that forcing a person for a DNA test violated personal liberty.

DNA tests occupy a grey area in the quest for justice, vacillating between the dangers of slipping into self-incrimination and encroachment on individual privacy and the "eminent need" to unearth the truth. They can be of help as evidence in a criminal case or in proving a claim of marital infidelity or paternity.

More and more complainants are seeking DNA tests – a senior official associated with a government laboratory estimates such requests increasing by around 20% each year. DNA Forensics Laboratory Private Ltd., accredited with the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), says it tests 300 to 400 samples a month on private requests and court orders. The numbers were only 30 to 40 till five years ago.

The Supreme Court recently held – in a case concerning a woman known only as 'XX' to protect her identity – that compelling an unwilling person to undergo a DNA test would be a violation of personal liberty and right to privacy, turning the spotlight on a technology that aids the cause of justice but violates privacy.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

'Over 2 lakh new jobs likely'

BENGALURU
New industrial projects are likely to create over 2 lakh new jobs, which will in turn boost consumer confidence, says Murugesh Nirani.

KARNATAKA
» PAGE 8

'Siddaramaiah did nothing for OBCs'

KALABURAGI
The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday accused Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah of doing only lip service to the welfare of the backward communities.

KARNATAKA
» PAGE 8

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 4&5

K. Sivan, Avinash chosen for Rajyotsava award

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former chairman of ISRO K. Sivan – known for his contribution to the Chandrayaan project – actors Avinash and Sihi Kahi Chandru, and writers A.R. Mitra and Krishne Gowda are among the 67 achievers, who have been selected for the 67th Rajyotsava award, which was announced by the State government on Sunday. On the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 10 organisations have also been selected for the award.

Actor H.G. Dattatreya (Dattanna) and retired IAS officer Madan Gopal have also been selected for the award.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

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RANK 12 Yasharth Shekhar
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

A three-judge Supreme Court bench to hear pleas against CAA

232 The number of pleas a three-judge bench at the Supreme Court has scheduled to hear challenging the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) along with around 240 public interest litigations, as well as a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the act on October 31. The 2019 law grants Indian citizenship to non-Muslim migrants. PTI

The ongoing process of resettling Bru refugees in Tripura

4,102 The number of Bru families living in Kanchanpur and Panisagar areas of North Tripura district who have been rehabilitated in new locations under a settlement agreement, according to officials. As per the agreement signed in January 2020, 37,136 Brus of 6,959 families are eligible to get resettled. PTI

Trains delayed and damaged by cattle on tracks across India

4,000 The number of trains affected by cattle runovers so far this year, with 200 trains getting affected in just the first nine days, according to Railway data. The worst affected is the newly minted Mumbai - Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express which was launched on October 1. It suffered three run-ins with cattle this month. PTI

Crushed in Halloween festivities, youngsters killed in Seoul

151 The updated number of fatalities due to Halloween festivities in Seoul. With 82 others injured, this is South Korea's worst disaster in years. A mass of mostly young people celebrating Halloween in Seoul got trapped and crushed as the crowd surged into a narrow alley. Emergency workers performed CPR on people lying in the streets after the stampede. AP

Slowdown in equity selling by foreign investors in October

1,586 In ₹ crore, the amount withdrawn by foreign portfolio investors from capital markets in October, after withdrawing over ₹7,600 crore last month. With only one trading session left, there is a slowdown in the pace of equity selling this month. More than ₹6,000 crore was invested in the last four trading sessions. PTI

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Why was the Miya Museum sealed?

How has a museum established by the Bengali-speaking or Bengal-origin Muslims in Assam generated controversy? Why did the BJP ask for its immediate shutdown? Is there a rift between Assamese Muslims and Bengal-origin Muslims?

EXPLAINER

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

The inauguration of a museum showcasing the culture of Bengali-speaking or Bengal-origin Muslims in Assam was sealed on October 25 after it sparked controversy. Officials said that the action was taken as a house allotted under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana-Gramin scheme was converted into a museum in violation of the rules. Leaders of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party say it was opened to appropriate Assamese culture and intimidate indigenous communities.

Under lock and key: Artefacts from the 'Miya Museum' in Assam which was sealed by the local authorities. PTI

What happened?

A private centre showcasing the culture and heritage of Bengal-origin or Bengali-speaking Muslims was inaugurated primarily by members of the All Assam Miya Parishad at Dapkarbhita in the Lakhipur circle of Goalpara district on October 23. They named it the Miya Museum. The Parishad had on October 17 intimated the district head about the opening of the museum. Some legislators and former MLAs of the BJP interpreted the museum as a cultural aggression and asked the government to pull it down. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the museum was a bid to appropriate Assamese culture and asked the local authorities to take necessary action. The local authorities sealed the museum after BJP's minority morcha leader, Abdur Rahim Gibran filed a complaint against it. According to an official notice, the museum was sealed because Mohar Ali, the chairperson of the Parishad, had established the museum, in violation of the rules, at his house allotted in 2018 under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana-Gramin.

Why was there controversy?

The genesis of the controversy lies in the politics of polarisation in Assam fuelled by the fear of a demographic invasion by the so-called "illegal immigrants" or "Bangladeshis". Although a respectable form of address across the Hindi and Urdu-speaking belts, 'Miya' is used pejoratively against the Bengali-speaking Muslims and also to sift them from the Assamese Muslims who the BJP have been wooing. The migrant Muslims form the bulk of Assam's Muslims accounting for more than 34% of the State's 3.3 crore people. The BJP has allegedly been pitting Assamese Muslims, considered 'khilonjia' (indigenous), against the Bengali-speaking Muslims and had in July approved the awarding of special status to five groups of indigenous Muslims. This is in line with the BJP's vow to protect the 'bhumiputras' (sons of the soil) from illegal immigrants. The museum was thus seen as a bid to assert the 'Miya' identity and by default, intimidation to the current dispensation.

Has this happened before?

The Bengal-origin Muslim community began promoting 'Miya' culture as a counter-campaign against the exercise to update the National Register of Citizens in Assam. This found expression in Miya literature underlining the plight of migrant Muslims. A section of the indigenous communities found this objectionable.

The issue was stoked before when suspended Congress MLA, Sherman Ali Ahmed sought a Miya Museum in the Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra, that showcases the cultural heritage of various ethnic groups of Assam. Mr. Sarma, then a Minister in the Sarbananda Sonowal government, said that he would not allow such a museum to be set up. Ironically, Mr. Ahmed had cited the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Art and Culture (which comprised 16 members of which six were BJP legislators) presented to the 126-member Assembly on March 24, 2020. The committee had proposed a museum in the Kalakshetra "reflecting the culture and heritage of the people living in the char-chaporis (sandbars or river islands) of Assam". Most char-chaporis are inhabited by the so-called Miyas.

How have other groups reacted?

While distancing itself from the museum, MLA and general secretary of the minority-based All India United Democratic Front, Aminul Islam said that it was the humiliation faced by the community that may have led to the museum. However, the All Assam Minority Students' Union saw the museum as a bid to polarise ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. "This was a pre-planned drama to stoke sentiments on both sides of the religious divide. There is no such thing as a Miya community and most of the people behind the museum are not migrant Muslims. Ali, who set up the museum at his house, is a Julha and Rafiqul Islam of Bagh Sena, an associate body of Miya Parishad, is a Deshi. So, there you are," said Rejaul Karim Sarkar, the Union's leader. Julha and Deshi are two of the five sub-groups of Assamese Muslims that the BJP government has decided to recognise.

THE GIST

- The inauguration of a museum showcasing the culture of Bengali-speaking Muslims in Assam was sealed on October 25 after it sparked controversy.
- The Bengal-origin Muslim community began promoting 'Miya' culture as a counter-campaign against the exercise to update the National Register of Citizens in Assam. A section of the indigenous communities found this objectionable. The BJP has allegedly been pitting Assamese Muslims, considered indigenous, against the Bengali-speaking Muslims.
- Some legislators and former MLAs of the BJP interpreted the museum as a cultural aggression. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the museum was a bid to appropriate Assamese culture.

Are there anti-superstition laws in India?

Are killings and deaths due to superstitious beliefs, black magic and sorcery still prevalent in the country? Is there a pan-India law which deals exclusively with such occult-inspired activities?

Sumeda

The story so far:

The brutal murders of two women as part of "ritualistic human sacrifices" in the Pathanamthitta district of Kerala have left the country in shock. Chilling details of the killings have sparked a debate about the prevalence of superstitious beliefs, black magic and sorcery in Kerala. In the absence of a comprehensive law to counter such acts, the call for a strict anti-superstition law has grown louder.

Are such killings common?

As per the 2021 report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), six deaths were linked to human sacrifices, while witchcraft was the motive for 68 killings. The maximum number of witchcraft cases were reported from Chhattisgarh (20), followed by Madhya Pradesh (18) and Telangana (11). Kerala saw two cases of human sacrifice. In 2020, India saw 88 deaths due to witchcraft and 11 died as part of 'human sacrifices', the NCRB report states.

What are the laws in India?

In India, there is no central law that exclusively deals with crimes related to witchcraft, superstition, or occult-inspired activities. In the absence of a nationwide legislation, a few States have enacted laws to counter witchcraft and protect women from deadly 'witch-hunting'.

Bihar was the first State to enact a law to prevent witchcraft, identification of a woman as a witch and"eliminate torture, humiliation and killing of women." The Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act came into force in October 1999. Anyone who identifies a person as a "witch" and acts to aid this identification can face a jail term of up to three months, or a fine of ₹1,000, or both. A similar law was passed in Jharkhand in 2001 – the Prevention of Witch (Daain) Practices Act.

Even though Chhattisgarh is one of the worst-affected States in terms of witchcraft-related crimes, the State enacted the Chhattisgarh Tonahi (witch) Pratadna Nivaran Act only in 2005. As per the law, a person convicted for identifying someone as a witch can be sentenced to up to three years of rigorous imprisonment with a fine.

Following the directions of the Odisha High Court to frame a law to deal with rising cases of witch-hunting in the State, the Odisha Prevention of Witch-Hunting Bill was passed by the Assembly in 2013. The bill provides penalties for a witch doctor, or a person claiming to be a black magician.

In Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Inhuman, Evil and Aghori Practices and Black Magic Act, 2013 was passed after the murder of anti-superstition activist Dr. Narendra Dabholkar. Rajasthan enacted the Rajasthan Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act in 2015 to "provide for effective measures to tackle the menace of witch-hunting and prevent the practice of witchcraft."

The Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention and Protection) Act, 2015, which received the President's assent in 2018, prohibits witch hunting completely. "No person shall identify, call, stigmatise, defame or accuse any other person as witch by words, or by signs or indications or by conducts or actions or any other manner or instigate, aid or abet such an act or commit witch hunting," the law states.

The latest law was passed in Karnataka where the Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017 came into effect in January 2020 after it was notified by the BJP government– which initially opposed it when it was the Opposition party. The law bans several practices related to black magic and superstition, like forcing a person to walk on fire at religious festivals and the practice of piercing rods from one side of the jaw to the other.

THE GIST

- Chilling details of the killings of two women in Kerala have sparked a debate about the prevalence and power of superstitious beliefs in society.
- As per the 2021 report of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), six deaths were linked to human sacrifices, while witchcraft was the motive for 68 killings in the country.
- In the absence of a nationwide legislation, a few States have enacted laws to counter witchcraft and protect women from deadly 'witch-hunting'.

STATUE OF UNITY
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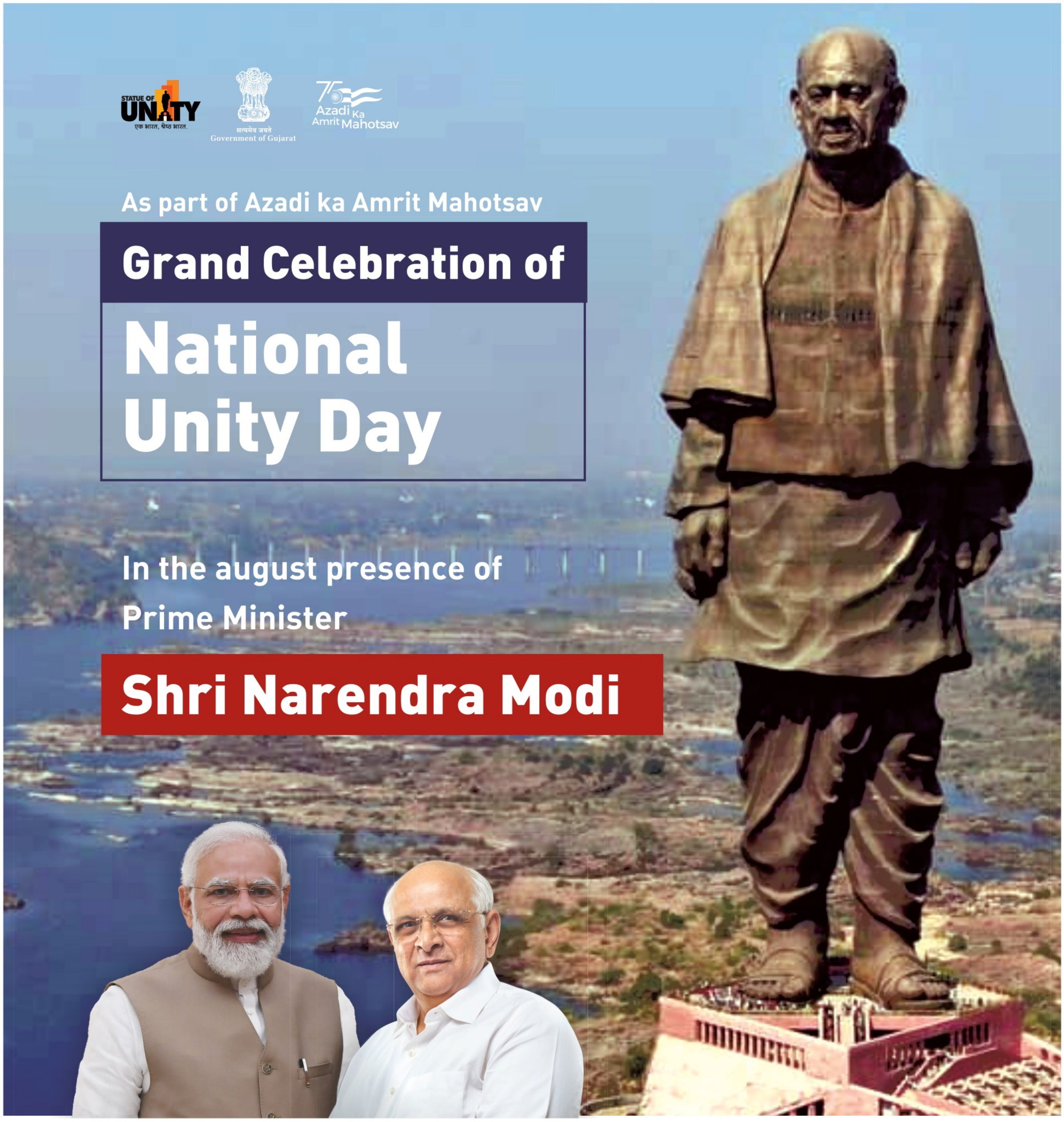

Various Programmes

PM will offer floral tribute to Sardar Patel

Parade by BSF and State Police

Dog Show by BSF

Kalaripayattu Demo by CISF Women Team

Weapon Drill by Gujarat Women Police

Air Show by Indian Air Force

Cultural Events

Tribute to
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
the architect of a United India,
on his birth anniversary

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel accomplished the impossible task of uniting the country."
- Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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एक भारत, श्रेष्ठ भारत.

Run for Unity to be held at 75,000 places across India

Date: 31.10.2022, Time: 8 am, Location: Ekta Nagar, Gujarat

Student killed in accident 'caused by a bad patch of road' at Yelahanka

The accident occurred when a car allegedly in a bid to avoid the bad stretch collided head-on with a bike and overturned, killing the person riding pillion; bike rider sustained severe injuries; car driver, who is absconding, and BBMP officials named in the FIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In another case of death in an accident suspected to be caused by a bad stretch of road, a 22-year-old student was killed and another youth was severely injured in Yelahanka New Town on Saturday night. The accident occurred when a car allegedly in a bid to avoid a bad stretch of road collided head-on with a bike and overturned.

This is the third accident in which people have died allegedly while trying to navigate bad stretches of roads or potholes in the city since the onset of monsoon this year, and the eighth case in the last year. The accident comes days after the Karnataka High Court pulled up the city's civic body for not implementing its directions on filling potholes on Thursday.

The car involved in the accident allegedly toppled while trying to avoid a pothole on Attur Main Road in Bengaluru.

Recent pothole-related accidents

- **October 2022:** Uma Devi, 50, who was riding pillion on a scooter, was killed and her daughter Vanitha, the rider, was injured when they slipped and came under a KSRTC bus on Vatal Nagaraj Road. The rider, while negotiating a pothole, was knocked down by the bus coming from behind
- **August 2022:** Suprith J., 44, an employee of a private firm, fell from his motorcycle while navigating a pothole at Herohalli in Byadarahalli police station limits on August 18 and succumbed to his injuries in a hospital on August 22
- **March 2022:** Ashwin K. Jodge, 27, a data entry operator, sustained critical injuries after he fell off his vehicle while negotiating a pothole at Muneshwara Layout in Yelahanka police station limits. He succumbed to his injuries later

Deadline

Following this, acting on directions from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who also holds the charge of the city portfolio, chief civic commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has issued an internal circular setting November 5 as the deadline for filling potholes, failing which he threatened disciplinary action against officials.

The latest accident occurred around 11 p.m. on Saturday on Attur Main Road. Rahul was riding the bike while his friend Harshad was riding pillion, when a car from the opposite direction lost control, collided with the bike head-on, and overturned on a bad stretch of road. Both Rahul and Harshad were injured and were rushed to a nearby private hospital. Harshad, who had sustained severe head injuries, was declared dead. The driver abandoned the car and fled from the scene.

The dramatic visuals of the accident, recorded by a CCTV camera at a nearby establishment, has been shared widely on social media.

In his complaint to the police, Sreeraj Sreedharan, a friend of the deceased, has blamed both the car driver for overspeeding and rash driving and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials for the bad stretch of road. "There is a deep crater on the road where the accident occurred. It was raining and there was water in the crater. So I request to take suitable legal action against BBMP officials concerned who are also responsible for the accident," the FIR reads. The Yelahanka traffic police have registered a case of causing death due to negligence under Section 304A of Indian Penal Code against the absconding car driver and unidentified BBMP officials. The police are on the lookout for the car driver, who was allegedly overspeeding and driving rashly, which has made the police suspect he was under the influence of alcohol.

Potholed closed

Meanwhile, civic officials closed the pothole and re-did the portion of the road on Sunday. Mr. Giri Nath told *The Hindu* that whether the accident occurred due to the pothole or not was a matter of investigation by the traffic police. He said the stretch of road where the accident occurred was recently dug up by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board to lay water pipelines and was redone, but the asphalted portion of the road had sunk in at three places which were being reworked now. He said the civic body was working on a war footing to close all potholes by November 5.

Two arrested, stolen valuables worth ₹5 lakh recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Govindarajanagar police have arrested two thieves and recovered valuables worth ₹5 lakh from them.

The accused, Imran Khan, 26, and Salman Khan, 28, from K.R. Puram and Gurappanapalya, respectively, used to move around residential areas to identify locked houses, the police said. They would then keep a watch for a few hours before breaking into them. While one of them would enter the house, the other would keep a watch outside. The accused would then pawn the stolen valuables, the police said. Based on a house break-in case reported, the Govindarajanagar police with the help of technical evidence tracked down the accused. With their arrest, the police claim to have cracked two house break-in cases in Govindarajanagar and Chamarajapet police station limits.

Habitual offender held

The Upparpet police on Sunday arrested a 36-year-old habitual offender and recovered valuables worth ₹3.5 lakh from him.

The accused, identified as Siddiq Khan from Kunigal, would move around the KSRTC bus stand to identify passengers who are careless about their luggage and would travel with them. He would take advantage of the situation steal the valuables and escape.

Based on a two theft cases reported back to back, the police kept a watch at the bus stand before zeroing in on Siddiq.

INBRIEF

ITI Ltd.'s Palakkad plant receives pat from ISRO

ITI Ltd.'s Palakkad plant has been appreciated by ISRO for realising the flight packages with respect to the launch of LVM3 M2/OneWeb India-1 Mission in a time-bound manner, meeting all Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) quality norms.

The launch of LVM3 M2/OneWeb India-1 Mission was successfully accomplished on October 23. ITI Ltd., Palakkad, was one of the major industry partners which the VSSC is depending on for the realisation of avionics packages. Various packages fabricated by ITI Ltd., Palakkad, have successfully flown in the LVM3 M2 Mission. This was one of the biggest commercial orders executed by ISRO. With this launch, the LVM3 entered the global market.

Volleyball and throwball tournament for students

Carmel High School, Basaveshwaranagar, on the occasion of its Founder's Day will be hosting the 20th edition of Alexander Memorial Volleyball Tournament for boys and fourth edition of the throwball tournament for girls on November 9 and 10. Boys and girls studying in high schools are eligible to participate. The winners will be awarded the Alexander Memorial Volleyball Rolling Trophy and Throwball Rolling Trophy and awards will be given to individual players of the winners and runners-up teams. The last day of registration is November 7. For details, contact the school Ph.: 080-23227015 or mail to carmelit1968@gmail.com.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (October 31, Monday), the following explainer is available:

- Why was the Miya Museum in Assam sealed? **bit.ly/miyamuslimlocked**

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• Information Science & Engineering
• Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AIML)
• Electronics & Comm. Engineering
• Electrical & Electronics Engineering
• Bio-technology
• Mechanical Engineering
• Mechatronics
• Civil Engineering
B.Arch (Bachelor of Architecture) CET Code E246 | MBA | MCA
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SNVL Narasimha Raju, President

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 210/ Halt/SBC/10/2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the **Soladevanahalli** Train Halt Station in Bengaluru - Tumakuru Section for issuing Unreserved Tickets on Commission Basis for a period of Five (05) Years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.
To Start functioning from : Date to be notified by the Administration.
Date and Time of submission of Application: **From 10:00 hrs. to 15:00 hrs. on 14-11-2022**
For details log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager
PUB/457/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that my client **Dhirendra Kumar Verma** S/o. Jai Dev Verma, R/o.102, Oceanus Freesia Apartment, Kaikondanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale Deed dt. 09.03.2007 executed by R. Narayanaswamy & Oceanus Dwellings (P) Ltd. in favour of Bhaskarjyoti Barua & Kankana Barua, registered with Sub-Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk, at Book No.1 and Doc. No.28865/2006-07, pertaining to Sy. Nos. 19/7 & 19/8 of Kaikondanahalli, Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk totally measuring 4 Acres 3 Guntas, upon which **Flat 102** has been constructed, bearing Khata No.1870/817/A-102, measuring super built up area of 1730 Sq. Ft., situated in **First Floor,** 'A' Block, along with One open Car Parking Unit in the surface floor, in the residential apartment complex namely, **"FREESIA ENCLAVE,** constructed over along with the proportionate share of common area such as passage, lobbies, lift, staircase and other common areas used for common use.
Anybody having any interest/dispute/claims over the said property or are holding the aforementioned document, shall return the same and contact the undersigned within **7 days** from the date of issue of this Notice, failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
M. Nagaraj, Advocate
#102, 1st floor, 'Legal Hut' Mariyannapalya, Behind St. John's School, Bengaluru-560 024
Ph: 9448087610,
e-mail: nagaraj.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Client **Smt. Kala Kiran Raju,** w/o late Kiran Chandra Raju, aged 49 years, No.48, SBI officers Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru-79, entered into agreement to purchase the property bearing site No. 766, BBMP khata No.960/ 766 / 963, situated at **Karmikara Raithara Vasathi Nirmana Sahakara Sangha Ltd. Dwarakanagar, Channasandra village, Uttarahalli hobli, Bengaluru south taluk,** now within the limits of BBMP ward No. 160 measuring East to West on Northern side 25 feet and on the Southern side 30 feet and North to south on the eastern side 31 feet and on the western side 32 feet, in all 866.25 square feet together with residential building comprising of ground floor, first floor, second floor third floor and fourth, total constructed area of around 30 squares bounded on : **East by Road, West by : Site No. 767, North by : Site No. 765, and South by : Road,** from **Smt. C.S.Manjula,** aged 44 years, w/o Sri. Shubhashankar.K. No. 96/1, Chikkallasandra village, Subramanyapura post, Bengaluru-560061 for a valuable consideration, as she has represented and contended to my client that she is the absolute owner of the above said property, and if any body / person/s or firm/ company has right, title share or interest whatsoever, or any objection for the sale of the said property, may contact under mentioned person within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall there after not be binding on my client.
VISWANATH SABARD
Advocate,
147/19, 48th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Ph : 080-23103552, M : 94480 72411
Place : Bangalore Date : 31-10-2022

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

Mark Zuckerberg's metaverse buffers as Meta shares burn

The real challenge with Zuckerberg's idea of the metaverse, which is to stitch together disparate digital worlds into one single tapestry, is that it still remains a niche offering, unlike his foray into social media which was a problem waiting to be solved

John Xavier

The early 90s ushered in the Internet era which enabled people to access content remotely from the world wide web. In the initial days, to do so, they had to set up a dial-up connection. The network used to take a few minutes to load before a local computer could access a public switch telephone network. Once a connection was established, people could browse 'the net' and access largely text-based content. Loading a web page with a dial-up connection would take a while. At times, you could make a cup of tea and return to your computer monitor, and the page might still be only half-way ready. The process of loading the webpage to show content is called 'buffering'. It simply meant that the to-be-displayed data is being pre-loaded in a certain area of the computer's memory. Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg's metaverse adventure is in some ways similar to the roughly three-decades old dial-up modem. His version of the metaverse seems to be currently buffering.

Manufacturing virtual reality

About a year ago, in an effort to push away the spotlight from whistle-blower Frances Haugen and her allegations on how Facebook contributed to harms ranging from misinformation on the platform to impacting teenagers' mental health, the social media firm said it was moving on to the next big thing in tech: metaverse. The company's plan was to stitch together disparate digital worlds into one single tapestry. In fact, Facebook was already making investments in virtual reality (VR) as early as 2014, long before the company got involved in the Cambridge Analytica scandal. With the $2 billion acquisition of Oculus, the social media company was gearing up to become the world leader in immersive VR tech. At that point, Oculus had already built strong interest among developers and had received over 75,000 orders for development kits of its Oculus Rift headsets. These headsets were however, largely used for VR-specific gaming.

Expensive transition

Zuckerberg's vision of a metaverse was far grander and partly stemmed from Neal Stephenson's three-decade old novel *Snow Crash* in which the protagonist goes back and forth between dystopian Los Angeles and a digital world. To make that vision a reality, the company has been doubling down on investments in VR. According to estimates by Bloomberg Intelligence, the metaverse could be an $800 billion opportunity by the end of 2024. But the cost of transition for Facebook was high, as it blew $10 billion in its Reality Labs division to build the business of the metaverse. In January, for the first time when Meta revealed the numbers for its hardware division, which includes the Oculus VR headsets, it showed a drop in quarterly profits by as much as 8% in the three months ending in December, compared to a year earlier.

At that point, the company was also buffeted by a change in Apple's iOS software that made it hard for Facebook to sell targeted ads. The high cost of switching to the metaverse and the effect of the iPhone maker's software changes made the transition difficult for the social media company. Investors were not happy as stocks tumbled nearly to a fifth during after-hours trading. The company's shares have been down since then. In June, Zuckerberg briefly spoke about challenges in building a VR headset as it required addressing retinal projection, depth perception and high dynamic range (HDR) imaging. He moved on to note that Meta would 'soon' roll out a headset capable of projecting holographic images. Three months later, on October 11, he unveiled a $1,500 VR headset that was nowhere close to his idea of a virtual world seeing gadget. About the expensive goggles, a *New York Times* reviewer wrote, "Yes, the best [VR headset] is already here, and has been for quite some time." And its use case continues to be confined to gaming.

A solution waiting for a problem

Meta investors are unhappy as they see the company's boss diving deeper and deeper into the metaverse without a clear path for return on investments. This has already sent the stock down by over 60% this year. The company's market value has collapsed by a whopping $676 billion, removing it from the ranks of the 20 largest U.S. companies, according to a report by *Bloomberg*.

The real challenge with Zuckerberg's idea of the metaverse is that it still remains a niche offering, unlike his foray into social media, which was a problem waiting to be solved. When he built the social network from his Harvard dorm room, it was the product for a time when people wanted to find newer ways to stay connected as they travelled farther away from each other. With the metaverse, it feels like a solution looking for a problem. In a parallel to the dial-up modem days, the metaverse is buffering, and it is unclear in what shape or size the page will load.

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

There isn't enough room to swing a cat here!

The speaker is apparently an eminent professional but since I was not sure about their gender, I addressed the letter with 'Mx'

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'not enough room to swing a cat'? (R. Harini, Trichy)

This relatively old expression is seldom heard nowadays. When you use this idiom to describe the apartment that your friend is staying in, what you are suggesting is that the place is very small; it is very cramped. When you say there was hardly any room in the stadium to swing a cat, what you mean is that the place was packed; it was very crowded.

You're supposed to be the Vice President of the company. Look at your office. There's not enough room to swing a cat.

There are several theories about the origin of this expression. Many scholars claim that the 'cat' in the expression refers to a whip and not the animal. The whip was called "cat o' nine tails" which in everyday conversation was reduced to 'cat'. It was mainly used to flog people. If you wish to hurt someone with a whip, you need to take a big swing with it; you need to take the whip back. This is not possible if the place you are in is small or cramped – if it is, it doesn't allow you to swing the 'cat'. Another theory put forward is that the cat in the idiom is indeed an animal. In the past, a live cat was swung by its tail, and archers were asked to shoot at it. The poor animal was used for target practice.

What is the difference between 'imminent' and 'eminent'? (L. Uday, Hyderabad)

The two words consist of three syllables each, and the stress in both is on the first syllable. The words are pronounced 'IM-i-nent' and 'EM-i-nent' respectively; they both come from the Latin 'minere' meaning 'to project'. 'Eminent' is mostly used with people; it suggests that the individual is well known or famous. The word can also be used with someone who is highly regarded or respected in a particular profession.

The eminent scientist that the news channels are talking about is my cousin.

'Imminent', is normally used to suggest that something is about to happen – and that something, is not always good.

According to the weather forecast, flooding is imminent.

Is the title 'Mx' used with a man or a woman? (R. Sudhesh, Bengaluru)

It can be used with both men and women. Unlike 'Mr', 'Mrs' and 'Miss', 'Mx' (pronounced like the word 'mix') is a gender-neutral title. When you see a letter addressed to 'Mx. Rao', you don't really know if the individual is a man or a woman. When this title is used, only the last name of the individual is included.

There's a letter addressed to Mx. Chaudhary.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

The web series House of the Dragon (HotD) completed its first season this week. Here's a quiz on the fictional TV adaptation of George R. R. Martin's epic fantasy book *Fire and Blood*

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

The series features an order of professional "healers", scientists, scholars and messengers called, "maesters". Where in the continent of Westeros are the maesters headquartered and which feudal house rules the city hosting it?

QUESTION 2

Queen Alicent, according to the web series, wears green during princess Rhaenyra's wedding, as a gesture symbolising her original House's use of the colour green for what occasion?

QUESTION 3

The greens, those owing allegiance to the faction led by Queen Alicent, in the series go on to acquire the largest living dragon during the events called the "Dance of the dragons". Name the dragon and the Targaryen it is bonded to, during this period.

QUESTION 4

The answer to Question 3 was ridden by a Targaryen queen during King Aegon's conquest of Westeros. Name her.

QUESTION 5

The answer to Question 4 also wielded the Valryian steel sword named "Dark Sister". Who gets to wield it during the events that happen in the House of the Dragon? And who bestowed it upon him?

Kings' Landing, the capital city of the kingdoms of Westeros was filmed at Dubrovnik in the *Game of Thrones.* This modern-day city in Spain (pictured above) is where it was filmed for HoTD. Name it. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the October 28 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This African country boasts the highest representation of women in Parliament. **Ans: Rwanda**

2. This country has women representation in the legislature to the tune of 53%, despite no mandated quota. **Ans: Cuba**

3. This freedom fighter went on to become the first elected woman Parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha. **Ans: Annie Mascarene**

4. This seven-time woman MP spearheaded the demand for 33% reservation for women in Indian Parliament. **Ans: Geeta Mukherjee from the Communist Party of India**

5. This MP is currently the youngest serving MP in India. **Ans: Chandrani Murmu**

Visual: This nominated MP is also a renowned classical dancer. **Ans: Sonal Mansingh**

Early Birds: Rudra Kant Mishra| Srinidhi Kavirayani| Manoj K. Ghorela| K. N. Viswanathan

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

Word of the day

Indolent:
disinclined to work or exertion

Synonyms:
slothful, lazy, work-shy

Usage: *He is an indolent employee who turns up two hours late everyday.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/indolentpro

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Leap in Infrastructure building

- Major focus on increasing connectivity through black-topped & all-weather roads, new bridges under various schemes
- Work on the Zoji-la tunnel; Kargil-Zanskar road and Nimmo-Padum-Darcha road going on as per schedule
- Internal passes being kept open for longer period; around 600 km road upgraded since 2019
- From 3% in 2019 under Jal Jeevan Mission, 68% house holds in rural Ladakh now have functional tap connections
- Since 2019, 233 additional Mobile Towers, 148 VSATS, 80 satellite phones made functional to bridge the communication gap even in the remotest corners
- 38 additional helipads have taken the count to 42 across Ladakh
- 31 villages electrified with grid connectivity after formation of UT

Strengthening Primary Sector

- 660 Ladakh Greenhouses and 2100 Vermi Compost units established
- 1,590 kanals of land brought under micro irrigation system; solar borewell & water lifting systems being used
- 5,000 hectares of land brought under organic certification under Mission Organic Development Initiative Ladakh (MODI)
- Apricot Processing Unit established to increase income of growers
- Dairy Processing Unit to be set up to promote A2-rich Ladakhi cow milk under brand 'Oma'; 80 Dairy Cooperative societies registered
- 100% registration & tagging of entire cattle & yak population done; FMD vaccination in full swing
- 110 MT Cold Storage facility constructed for bulk storage of food items

Ensuring Quality Education

- Transition of affiliation of Government schools from JKBOSE to CBSE
- Students from Class 6 to 12 provided with YounTab - preloaded educational tablets
- 40 Astronomy/Astro Physics Lab set up in schools; 24 Atal Tinkering labs/Robotic labs set up in Higher Secondary Schools
- 18,000 winter uniforms (blazers) distributed to students from KG till Class 8 under Samagra Shiksha
- Community Radio being set up for educational purposes in all zones of Ladakh
- Collaboration with IITs for internships & sponsored MTech programmes; 45 students interning & 12 engineering graduates sent for MTech programme at IIT Delhi, Bombay & Kanpur
- Courses in colleges & University increased over 3 years resulting in increased GER
- MoU signed with Universities and Institutes across the country to strengthen Higher Education
- Infrastructure expansion with hostels, sports hall & labs in all the colleges & university; Geo-Thermal energy for space heating alongwith winter-friendly construction coming up at the University of Ladakh

Promoting Entrepreneurs and Building Skills

- Fresh Halman apricots & apples exported to foreign countries for the first time
- Brand Ladakh emporium established to promote & showcase handloom, handicraft & processed food products
- Incubation Centre for handloom & handicraft set up; hand holding & capacity building of entrepreneurs being done
- PMFME of Micro Food Processing Enterprises launched; new entrepreneurs & SHGs on-boarded
- 'Enchanting Ladakh' Fair provided platform to small businesses & SHGs; Ladakh took part in World Expo'20 at Dubai
- Floriculture and Horticulture trade introduced in ITIs in 2022
- Youth trained in voice artist training, mobile filmmaking, screen acting through FTII; youth also trained as Assistant Hair Dressers & Stylists
- Screenwriters Fair held to build capacities of filmmakers from Ladakh
- Ladakh Skill Development portal launched

Towards a Carbon Neutral Ladakh

- 7.5 GW solar power project coming up at Pang
- 1 Megawatt Geo Thermal Field Development pilot project coming up at Puga
- e-Cars for UT Administration officials launched by Lt. Governor on 9th October 2022
- e-Vehicle policy introduced, early bird subsidy of 20% to 50%; e-Buses being utilised for public transportation
- 19 DG sets of 1345 KVA capacity, phased out in 2021 and 5 Nos DG sets of 810 KVA capacity phased out in 2022

Developing Sustainable Tourism

- Country's first Dark Sky Reserve being developed at Hanle to promote Astro-tourism
- New Homestay Policy launched for geographical spread and decentralisation of tourism activities to promote eco-tourism
- Trainings provided to 550 homestay owners each in Leh & Kargil; incentive items worth Rs 5 crores distributed
- To boost winter tourism, Ladakh Winter Conclave, Zanskar Winter Sports Festivals being organised
- Wayside amenities at major tourist routes for the convenience of tourists
- 4,86,590 tourists visited Ladakh in 2022 against 2,79,937 in 2019

Aiming for Healthy Ladakh

- Genomic Sequencing Lab established in Ladakh; MRI, Digital X-ray & Digital Radiography Machines; high-end eye operating microscope made available
- 300-bedded District Hospital Complex at Kargil ready for launch
- COVID-19 Vaccine: 1st dose to 100% population, 2nd dose to 88.12%; boosters to 67.88% population
- 56% health institutions providing regular tele-consultation services; the number of doctors increased from 163 in 2019 to 274 in 2022
- 83% of eligible households covered under PMJAY
- Beds capacity in hospitals has been doubled; Capacity of Oxygenated beds, Pediatric ICU beds increased manyfold
- National Institute of Sowa Rigpa has been set up as Centre-of-Excellence for research & education in Sowa Rigpa system of medicine under the Ministry of AYUSH

Promoting Fitness and Sports

- Open stadium with Astroturf at Leh and Astroturf football ground at Kargil constructed;
- State-of-the-art ice hockey rinks with chilling facilities being constructed in Leh & Kargil
- Sports equipment worth 10 crores purchased for local sportspersons.
- Players from Ladakh represented the UT at various national & International tournaments; 26 sports associations registered & affiliated with national associations.
- Tournaments at the UT level organised viz. LG Polo Cup, LG Ice Hockey Championship in addition to district level games

Striving For Inclusive Growth

- Winter-friendly and model Anganwadi centres being built for covering every eligible child under ICDS scheme
- Year 2022-23 was declared as the Year of Persons with Disabilities in Ladakh to make every public building and government services accessible to all
- Unique Identity Card to cover all PwDs being carried out in a mission mode; 3,386 UDID generated
- First government Old Age Home being built at Leh & Kargil; Child Care Institutions and Working Women Hostel also coming up
- Helpline for Senior Citizens, 'Elderline' was launched on 30th September 2022; old age pension beneficiaries increased by 57% since 2019
- Concerted efforts being made to provide scholarship to all eligible students; beneficiaries increased by 15.8% in last one year

Towards Efficient Governance

- Ladakh integrated Financial Management System (LIFMS) implemented from 1st April, 2022 for paperless budgeting, effective monitoring, budget planning and expenditure audit
- Capacity building of manpower for efficient governance.
- Financial services expanded post formation of UT with banking services reaching remotest villages; e-seva portal launched
- Digitisation of land records has been undertaken
- Emergency Response Support System through helpline No. 112; Cyber-crime unit being set up with state-of-the-art Cyber Lab with cyber forensic capabilities

Meeting Local Aspirations

- Local governance being strengthened to take up developmental projects at the village & municipal level
- Ladakh has 193 Sarpanch, 1360 Panch, 31 Block Development Council Chairpersons & 240 Nambardar (Goba) functioning at the grassroot level
- Three-fold increase in budget allocation (from Rs 166 crore in 2019 to 516.64 crores in 2022) to both Hill Councils to empower them in formulating big projects
- Development Conclaves convened by the UT Administration with elected representatives to devise policy interventions

11 arrested on charge of peddling drugs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a joint operation, the Ashok Nagar and Cubbon Park police have unearthed a drug racket, arrested 11 peddlers and recovered 1.8 kg of MDMA and 1 kg of marijuana worth ₹1.09 crore from them.

According to the police, the arrested peddlers included those from countries such as Sudan, Yemen, and Chad. The accused had come to India on different visas and overstayed. The police suspect that the accused are part of an inter-State drug racket being operated in city.

The accused would source the drugs from their contacts in neighbouring States and peddle them here, the police said. They are booked under provisions of the NDPS Act.

Namma Metro to launch mobile app-based QR ticketing system tomorrow

Passengers will be able to buy single trip tickets on the app by selecting origin and destination points; BMRCL's plans to roll out National Common Mobility Card yet to become a reality

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) is all set to launch a mobile app-based QR ticketing system from November 1. The initiative will help passengers to take a metro ride without using smart cards or tokens.

BMRCL managing director Anjum Parwez told *The Hindu* that tests were being carried out to start the new ticketing system. "On the occasion of Karnataka Rajyotsava, the BMRCL will launch the QR ticketing system. The new system will provide more travel comfort for metro passengers," said Mr. Parwez.

Metro passengers will be able to buy single trip tickets on the mobile app by selecting origin and destination points. The QR code displayed could be tapped at the automatic fare collection (AFC) gates to travel in the metro. The new system will avoid people from standing in long queues to purchase tokens or for topping up smart cards. To facilitate the new ticketing system, the AFC gates have been upgraded in all the metro stations.

Prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, the BMRCL had plans to roll out the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) and a mobile app-based QR ticketing system. Though, the BMRCL had carried out a trial run to introduce the NCMC cards, it is yet to become a reality.

Namma Metro operations in the city completed 11 years on October 20. In September, 64% of commuters used smart cards and 36% used tokens for travelling. The average ridership has already crossed over 5 lakh a day and the number is likely to jump further once the BMRCL opens Baiyappanahalli-Whitefield line for commercial operations. The trial on this line has begun and commercial operations are likely to start by March next.

People relying on public transport in the city are demanding that the BMRCL and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) provide a common ticketing system that helps them travel in both metro as well as city buses. In the past, the BMTC had made big promises on introducing a robust mobile app that would help passengers track bus arrival in real time, QR-based ticketing system, and others, but it is still buying time owing to various issues.

When the metro service was launched in 2011, the BMRCL and the BMTC introduced a common paper ticket that allowed people to travel in both metro as well as city buses. After a few months, issuing of common paper tickets was discontinued citing poor patronage.

Satish Kumar, who relies on public transport for commuting, said, "It is unfortunate that both the BMRCL and the BMTC have failed to introduce a common platform that enables people to use a single ticketing system to use both modes of transport. Use of a single smart card or a mobile app will help people in a big way. People will also shift from private mode transport to public transport when the public transport system is made more convenient."

In the city, the BMRCL has a network of 55 km of operational metro line and the BMTC has a fleet size of 6,800 buses and operates over 52,300 trips a day.

For the last 11 years, passengers have been using contactless smart cards or tokens to commute in metro trains. FILE PHOTO

> The new system will provide more travel comfort for metro passengers
> **ANJUM PARWEZ,** BMRCL managing director

Kannur Mutt swami among three held for abetting suicide of Bande Mutt seer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The other arrested are a schoolteacher-turned-advocate and an engineering student; the seer had left a note blaming a few people for his death

The Kudur police on Sunday cracked the suicide case of 45-year-old Basavalinga Swami of Kunchagal Bande Mutt, who ended his life last week.

The seer had left behind a suicide note with the names of a few people blaming them for his death, which was corroborated by the police with technical evidence before arresting another seer and two others for abetting his suicide.

The police have arrested Mrutyunjaya Swami, 45, of the nearby Kannur Mutt along with his accomplices Neelambika, an engineering student, and school-teacher-turned-advocate Mahadevaiah. Mrutyunjaya Swami is a cousin of Basavalinga Swami and the two mutts they were heading, Kanchugal Bande Mutt and Kannur Mutt, are both affiliated with Tumakuru-based Siddaganga Mutt.

Conspiracy

The police said there was a conspiracy by Mrutyunjaya Swami to defame Basavalinga Swami and throw him out of the mutt, as he was considered close to the chief seer of Siddaganga Mutt.

Investigations have now revealed that as part of the conspiracy, Mrutyunjaya Swami roped in Mahadevaiah, who in turn introduced Neelambika to Basavalinga Swami, with the intention to "honey-trap" the seer. As per the plan, the girl allegedly became close to Basavalinga Swami and the duo soon started having private chats, which she recorded and sent to Mahadevaiah. He allegedly edited these video clips and started sending them to Basavalinga Swami and other administrators of Kanchugal Bande Mutt to defame him. They also blackmailed the seer which allegedly led him to take the extreme step, leaving behind a death note, in which he reportedly narrated this conspiracy which has now been corroborated by the police.

The accused have been booked under section 306 (abetment to suicide) and section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence). The police have taken them into custody for further questioning to ascertain the possible role of others in the crime.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

'KMF will increase milk selling price by ₹3 a litre'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) will increase the selling price of milk by ₹3 a litre, federation chairman Balachandra Jarkiholi said in Hoolihatti village of Belagavi district on Sunday.

"The revised price will help farmers as procurement price will go up automatically," he said.

"It is absolutely essential that the selling price of milk is increased immediately. All the 16 milk unions in the State have sent a proposal to Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. We took a decision in the general body meeting and approached the government. I have apprised Mr. Bommai of our constraints. I am sure he will agree to our demand," he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, OCT. 31	
RISE	06:13
SET	17:54
RISE	11:58
SET	23:34
TUESDAY, NOV. 01	
RISE	06:13
SET	17:53
RISE	12:53
SET	00:00
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 02	
RISE	06:13
SET	17:53
RISE	13:44
SET	00:36

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	23
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	19

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A pleasant and hazy morning turns comfortable day. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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R. W. Alexander Jesudasan

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

A vital move

The introduction of the Professor of Practice in our higher education institutions will help make the courses more interesting and relevant

The UGC's recent draft guidelines to engage Professors of Practice in universities and colleges aims to bring in expertise from industry and other fields such as art, crafts and other professional areas into higher education institutes (HEIs). According to the UGC, a Professor of Practice does not need to have a formal academic qualification, if they possess an exemplary professional practice. This will enable HEIs to create curricula and syllabi that not only meet the needs of industry and society, but also facilitate research projects, experiential learning, skill development and entrepreneurship.

This is a vital move as the expertise and practical approach brought by such professors will make the subject more interesting and relevant. It will also help students select appropriate career paths and boost employment opportunities.

What it means

According to the guidelines, a Professor of Practice can be appointed in addition to the sanctioned strength of faculty in a department/institution. He/she will have a fixed term of one year that can be extended to three years, depending on his/her contribution and performance.

The Professor of Practice will be involved in designing and developing the course to make it innovative. This also involves creating entrepreneurship projects and providing mentorship. Apart from facilitating industry-academia collaborations, these professors can also organise workshops, training programmes and seminars along with the other faculty. The post can be funded either by the industry and supported by the institution or be an honorary one.

Benefits

This proposal for Professor of Practice has come at a time when much emphasis is being laid on the need for students to undergo internships and get adequate exposure on the practical side of the syllabus. A Professor of Practice should be able to facilitate and further this development and render guidance to the students in getting the full benefit of the internship.

HEIs are now expected to establish incubation centres, fab labs, innovation and research centres to convert the ideas of students and faculty into worthwhile and tangible outcomes. The Professor of Practice will be able to ensure a free flow of knowledge and help with the conceptualisation of the research problem and a successful execution. Such interactions are vital to take the collaborations to an advanced stage.

The other aspect where this post will be useful is in honing skill sets. Today, students require practical exposure not just for STEM subjects but also for those from Humanities stream such as English, Psychology, Philosophy, History, and so on. Language labs will help popularise languages other than English. Each Humanities subject has its own set of practical content that will make it absorbing and exciting for students. Professionals from the respective fields will also be able to make these engaging and riveting and kindle the student's interest in the subjects.

Thus, the proposal to have a Professor of Practice would be both relevant and helpful, as they can play a key role in bringing in up-to-date content in the concerned areas.

The writer is Pro Vice- Chancellor, Hindustan Institute of Technology and Science (Deemed-to-be University), Chennai

Make smart choices

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This Q&A column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I did my B.Sc. (Hons) Chemistry Honours last year and took a gap year. In college, I was involved with some graphic designing and would like to explore the field. But I am unaware of the scope and the courses available. Akshita

Dear Akshita,

There are four types of careers in graphic design: Brand Identity and Logo Design, Packaging Design, Web, Mobile Design and Layout, and Print Design. Job roles are plenty: Creative Director, UX Designer, UI Designer, Production Artist, Product Development, Art Director, Multimedia Artist or Animator and so on. You could do a degree in Graphic Design or a recognised certificate course online. Essentially, you must understand basic designs, work on your portfolio, get some hands-on work experience, and stay up to date with current trends.

I am doing a Triple Major B.A. (English, Communication, and Journalism). I want to do Masters in HR Management in the U.K. Is this a good career option? Hrithika

Dear Hrithika,

HRM is a great career option and is all about working with people, managing them effectively, and helping maximise employee productivity and performance. Is that something that you would like to do? Other career options are Mass Media, Journalism, PR, Advertising, Event Management, Anchoring, and Corporate Communications.

I have completed my B.C.A LLB (Hons). Are there any PG courses related to psychology and law? Indhu

Dear Indhu,

There are quite a few dual Master's courses and programmes overseas (across Europe, the U.K., and the U.S.) such as Legal Psychology, Forensic Psychology and Law, Mental Health Law and Ethics, and Legal Psychology. Depending on your specialisation, you can work with the police for investigations, at juvenile offender institutions, child protective services, high-security forensic facilities and also get into research.

I am in Class 12 (Biology + Maths). While I want to prepare for NEET UG, my academic performance has taken a big hit. I am still interested in Science and Medicine and am considering taking the SAT. What is the process of applying to U.S. colleges? Joel

Dear Joel,

Be aware of your distractions and get your focus back! You can do Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, Forensic Sciences, Biotechnology, Healthcare Data Mining, Cognitive Neuroscience and AI, Nanotechnology, and a lot more. Narrow down the courses that interest you the most.

The process: First, shortlist the courses and colleges. Then research the college websites thoroughly for detailed information on the requirements. Establish contact and start a conversation with the admissions office. Shortlist your top choices and prepare for entrance exams. Work on your SOPs and LORs and start the application process.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

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BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Hasanamba temple records collection of ₹3.61 cr. this year

The Hasanamba temple, which was opened only for 14 days during the annual Hasanamba festival from October 13, recorded total revenue of ₹3.61 crore. The counting of cash collected in the hundi - contribution box - went on till late in the evening on October 28. The hundi collection alone accounted for ₹1.80 crore.

Besides that, the temple committee collected ₹1.48 crore by selling special entry tickets and ₹32.82 lakh by selling laddus. The money collected in the hundi of Siddeshwara temple, which is located on the same premises, was ₹8.23 lakh. The cash was counted under the supervision of senior officers of the Revenue Department on October 28.

One-month training in beautician course

The Multi Disciplinary Training Center, Khadi and Village Industries, Commission, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India, has invited applications from interested candidates desirous of undergoing one-month practical skill training on Beautician course. The training will be held from October 31 at its premises in Vijinapura, near RTO Office, Doorvani Nagar. For details, call 080-25650285

Rain hits avarekai cultivation; price might be higher than usual this time

Farmers say the cultivation of avarekai requires cold, misty weather which cannot be found when there is rain every other week; those farmers who have been growing avarekai for many years now had stopped it and this could cause a shortage of the beans in the State

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of avarekai being sold in Bengaluru.

Everyone's favourite avarekai might hit the markets later than usual and in lesser quantities this time as the crop has been adversely affected by incessant rain. Those farmers who have been growing avarekai regularly for many years now, after analysing the erratic weather patterns, have given up on cultivating it this time, especially in regionals such as Magadi and Kolar, and this could cause a shortage of the beans in the State.

"The rain destroyed all our plans of *avare* this time. I had been growing it for years but this time, I decided to not risk it. Only one in a hundred farmers might have sown it this time. Hence the price will mostly be on the higher side", said Chennathimmaiah, a farmer from Magadi. Farmers said the cultivation of avarekai requires cold, misty weather which cannot be found when there is rain every other week. "That misty weather is what gives the *avare* its famed *sogadu* (a distinct aroma). These rains are not good for the formation of the beans. The yield will be very less this time overall," said a farmer from Bengaluru Rural district.

Machine worries

Most farmers grow avarekai as a mixed crop along with ragi. While manual methods were being used before to harvest ragi, these days, farmers are equipped with machines that chop and bundle the harvest up. "If avarekai is grown in the lines between ragi, then the machine cannot effectively do its job," explained Anjaneya Reddy, a farmer from Kolar.

He said that this was the main reason why many farmers in Kolar gradually stopped cultivating avarekai. "Even though we are famous for our *sogadu* avarekai, from the last three years, the number of cultivators has come down owing to this reason. Farmers are only growing as much for their domestic use. However, in the border district of Anantapur, a lot of farmers are cultivating *naati* avarekai and they might dominate the markets in the region," he added.

Traders' concern

A manager at Hopcoms said that if there is sufficient, good yield, then good quality avarekai might be available in the range of ₹40 to ₹50 a kg in Bengaluru. "We should wait for the next fortnight or two and check the quality of the beans which reach the market. If the quality is bad, then the price will shoot up."

Swathi K.S. the owner of Vasavi condiments, which organises the annual avare mela said that depending on when the produce reaches the market, the mela dates will be decided. "Avarekai has not come to the market yet. It is expected to arrive sometime next month. If that is the case, then the mela might tentatively be organised in the last week of December or the beginning of January." She said that if there was a shortage of avarekai in the State this time, then they might have to bring it in from the neighbouring States.

Available all year

Although avarekai is usually associated with the winter season and is also an integral part of the Sankranti celebrations in January, in recent years, it is available almost throughout the year in select markets. When asked about this, a trader explained, "Since it is a mixed crop, farmers sow it whenever they have some empty space and the weather seems conducive. However, this does not have the *sogadu* which is only found in the seasonal avare."

Leopard still at large; Brindavan Gardens partially reopened

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Brindavan Gardens abutting the Krishnaraja Sagar reservoir was partially reopened for tourists on Sunday after it was closed on Friday evening due to a leopard scare.

Though the leopard was still at large, the authorities decided to keep a portion of the famed gardens open to tourists though the entry to musical fountain side, was prohibited.

The leopard was first sighted on Friday evening near the farm belonging to the horticulture department close to the musical fountain. The visuals were captured on CCTV surveillance and the visitors were sent out immediately. The gardens remained closed on Saturday despite being a weekend and a surge in number of tourists.

Though the forest department combed the area and even placed a cage in a bid to capture the leopard, it could not be traced. This is the second time in a week that a leopard was sighted at Brindavan Gardens forcing the authorities to keep it out of bounds for tourists. The Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd. officials said the leopard was yet to be traced and the forest department personnel continued with their combing exercise to track the animal.

Bullock race mishaps: 3 die in last 4 days

The Hindu Bureau
HASSAN

Three persons died in as many incidents of bullock race held in the last four days in Shivamogga district. It is said that the bullock race was conducted without permission from either the police or the Revenue Department.

Vasanth, 33, died after he was hit by a bullock during the race at Taralaghatta in Shikaripur taluk on Sunday.

On October 27, Prashanth Kumar, 36, a resident of Gama village in Shikaripur taluk, suffered serious injuries when a bullock hit him during the race on October 27. He was taken to McGann Hospital in Shivamogga, where he died the next day. A video clip showing a bullock hitting the youth has gone viral.

In another incident, Adi, 20 of Chagatur village in Sorab taluk, died during the bullock race in the village on October 28.

Bullock race is held as part of Deepavali celebrations in many villages in the district. M.P. Kaviraj, tahsildar of Shikaripur taluk, told *The Hindu* that permission had not been taken from the taluk administration for the event. "If somebody approaches the police seeking permission for such an event, they normally forward such applications to us. We did not receive any such application," the tahsildar said.

The police have registered cases and taken up investigation. G.K. Mithun Kumar, Superintendent of Police, said that the police had served notices to people in different villages well in advance on holding such events. He clarified that his officers had not given permission for such events in the district. The police had booked cases based on statements given by family members of the victims. "We will investigate the cases," he added.

Police officer's death will be probed, says Bommai

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday said that an inquiry into the death of suspended K.R. Puram police inspector would be conducted even as the Congress demanded the resignation of Home Minister Araga Jnanendra and the Chief Minister over the alleged payment for postings in the Police Department.

"An inquiry into the demise of police inspector Nandish (who died of a cardiac arrest) will be held after collecting details from the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police," the Chief Minister told presspersons here on Sunday.

He said there was no question of thinking twice on holding the inquiry.

However, terming Nandish's death as a "murder by the government", KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday said: "Evidence of 40% commission is tumbling out every day. The Minister N. Nagaraju (MTB) is heard speaking to police officials and BJP workers about ₹70 lakh to ₹80 lakh bribe for posting."

He told reporters here at a joint press conference with Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah.

Mr. Shivakumar said, "Who has to take responsibility for this? Did the money reach the Chief Minister's office or the local Minister or even police officers? It should come out."

He said, "Either the Home Minister should resign or the Chief Minister should resign. Otherwise, resignation of the Minister heard speaking about it should be taken.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said Mr. Nagaraju's conversation shows the way the government was functioning. "The government is responsible for the death of Nandish. Both Mr. Jnanendra and Mr. Bommai should resign. The death of the officer should be probed."

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said that though the Chief Minister had spoken about the inquiry, he had not specified the type of the inquiry.

"The death mirrors the dark side of the Police Department. There is a big business in the department," he alleged.

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This is to inform the general public that my clients are interested to purchase the property morefully described in the schedule hereunder from Sri.C.Cheluve Gowda.
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No: SABVMCRI/E-Tender/ETP&STP/10/2022-23 Date: 28.10.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute invites eligible interested Organizations through sealed e-tenders as per KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000. work for Maintenance of ETP & STP Plant at Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital, Govt. HSIS Gosha Hospital, Girls Hostel & College Building of Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560001.

Tender Form, EMD details and Conditions can be viewed on this website at **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Tenders can be submitted and tender processing fee of Rs.5,000/- (Non-Refundable) should be obtained and submitted the DD in the Name of **Director cum Dean, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College & Research Institute, Shivajinagar, Bangalore** and the receipt thereof shall be enclosed with this tender. Interested tenderers should register on e-procurement portal. Further details for registration can be seen on the website, contact e-mail: **sabvmcri@gmail.com** & Phone No: **+91-8431186388.**

Time Schedule for the Tender: (1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from e-Procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from: **02.11.2022** (2) Date of Online Queries: **07.11.2022 up to 04.00 PM** (3) Last Date & Time for uploading of e-Tender in e-Procurment Portal: **16.11.2022 up to 04.00 PM** (4) Date & Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **18.11.2022 at 10.30 AM.**

Address for Communication: **Shri Atal Bhihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560001. Phone No: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com**

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Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South-1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1560/ 2022-23. Dated: 27.10.2022	₹ 32,64,692/- / ₹ 65,300/-	08.11.2022 upto 4:00 pm	10.11.2022 after 3:00 pm
2		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1561/ 2022-23. Dated: 27.10.2022	₹ 38,55,009/- / ₹ 77,100/-		
3		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1562/ 2022-23. Dated: 27.10.2022	₹ 78,10,167/- / ₹ 1,56,200/-		
4		BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/1563/ 2022-23. Dated: 27.10.2022	₹ 30,56,626/- / ₹ 61,500/-		
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-1)**		
5	South-2	BWSSB/EES-2/PB/213/ 2022-23. Dated: 20.10.2022	₹ 34,54,919/- / ₹ 69,200/-	14.11.2022 upto 4:00 pm	16.11.2022 after 4:00 pm
			Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South-2)**		

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/2846/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2022-23/ 4547 Dated: 28.10.2022

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Details of works: On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTTP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-4 Karnataka Public Works Department invites item Rate Tender by Two Cover System Through e-Procurement Portal from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following 01 work Under KKRDB Plan for the year 2022-23 Work Indent No. KPWD/ 2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT159278 2) Estimate Cost: Rs.600.00 Lakhs 3) Contractor Eligible Details: GST Registration, MSME Registration & Firm Registration, 4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details: Tender Fee as per e-proc and EMD Minimum Rs 7,61,500.00, 5) Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting: 31.10.2022 (17.30 hrs), 6) Date of Demo: 02.11.2022 (At Chief Engineer, C&B (NE), Office, PWD Bhavan, Kalaburagi, 7) Date & Time for receipt of queries: 02.11.2022 (17.30 hrs), 8) Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal : 05.11.2022 (16.00 hrs), 9) Date & Time of Opening of the Technical Bid: 07.11.2022 (11.30 hrs), 10) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid: 09.11.2022 (11.30 hrs). 11) Noote: GST will be paid separately 12) For More Details Contact : Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir. 13) Website Address :www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, S.R. Sailaja, D/o B.Raghavan Nair and W/o T.K.Vijayakumar, R/o #15, Aishwarya, Byrasandra 2nd Cross, C.V.Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560093 have changed my name from S.R.Sailaja to Shailaja Vijayakumar vide affidavit dated 28-10-2022 before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I, MOHAMMED Khader Pasha, S/o Mohammed Zameer, R/o Ward No.29, Nekkundipete, Chintamani, Chikkaballapur Dist, Karnataka have changed my name to Khader Pasha vide affidavit dated 27-10-2022 before Notary Manjunatha Reddy, Chintamani.

I, JEELANI Sab Abdul Azeem, S/o Abdul Azeem residing at No. 211, 3rd Stage, 8th Main Road, Pillanna Garden, Bengaluru-560045 Karnataka have changed my name to Jeelani Sab vide affidavit dated 29/10/2022 before Meer Hassan, Notary, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT JUDGE, KRISHNAGIRI
R.E.P. No. 53/2021 in O.S.No. 77/2020

Stephen,
S/o. J.Lourdusamy, No.10-C, MohanRao Colony, 3rd Cross, Krishnagiri
...Petitioner / D.H / Plaintiff

/ versus /

A.Sathaj,
W/o. S.H.Abbas, D.No.17/62, 4th - A Cross, Lakkachandira, Lalji Nagar, Bangalore - 560 030
...Respondent / J.D / Defendant

NOTICE

The Petitioners have filed the (EXECUTION PETITION) against you for the relief of claiming compensation. If you have got any objection, You may appear before this Honorable court on 18-11-2022 at 10.30 a.m. either in person or through an advocate and file your objection. if you fail to do so, mater will be decided exparte.

// By Court Order //
A.S.SUBRAMANI, B.A.B.L,
Advocate, Krishnagiri
MS.No. 1017/1998
Mob.No. 9443442169

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Date : **31-10-2022**
Place : **KURNOOL**
Name of Applicant: **Karepakula Ravi Prakash Reddy**

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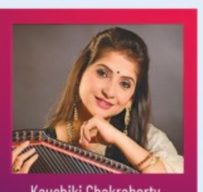
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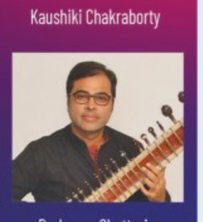
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Gunjan Krishna, IAS
Commissioner for Industrial Development and Director of Industries & Commerce

Dr. E. V. Ramana Reddy, IAS
Additional Chief Secretary to Government, Commerce and Industries Department

Dr. Murugesh R. Nirani
Hon'ble Minister for Large and Medium Industries, Government of Karnataka

M BG-BGE

‘State expecting over ₹5 lakh cr. in investments through GIM’

New industrial projects are likely to create over 2 lakh new jobs, which will in turn boost consumer confidence and market sentiments and favourably impact Karnataka’s economy, says Minister

INTERVIEW

Murugesh Nirani

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Karnataka captured almost 40% of the total foreign direct investments (FDIs) received by India during fiscal 2021-22.

This year again, the State is set to garner a similar share of FDI and has been growing as an attractive destination in the country.

The 2022 edition of its global investment exposition, Global Investors’ Meet (GIM), set to be inaugurated on November 2, will only accelerate the flow of investments to the State, said Murugesh Nirani, Minister, Large and Medium Industries, in an interaction with *The Hindu*. Excerpts:

Has the industrial climate of Karnataka fully recovered to pre-COVID levels yet?
Yes, definitely. Karnataka has completely recovered. The State continues to remain numero uno in attracting FDIs and it captured FDIs to the tune of ₹1.76 lakh crore ($22.1 billion), 38% share of total FDIs received in India from April 2021 to March 2022. This, despite the challenging pandemic situation.

We have signed historic MoUs post-pandemic. This includes renewable energy player ACME Group’s ₹52,000 crore investment, ISMC Analog Fab committed an investment of ₹22,900 crore for a Semiconductor Fab Plant, Toyota signed for a ₹5,000 crore investment in manufacturing of auto parts, Exide Industries has entered into an agreement to invest ₹6,000 crore in lithium-ion cell production.

Petronas is expected to invest ₹31,200 crore to set up a Green Hydrogen & Ammonia project and Continental India plans a ₹1,000 crore investment to increase its R&D footprint in the State.

> Our aim is not only to get investments but to bring industry giants under one platform.
>
> **MURUGESH NIRANI**
> Minister, Large and Medium Industries

All these new industrial projects are expected to create over 2 lakh new jobs, which will in turn boost consumer confidence and market sentiments and favourably impact the State’s economy.

You are expecting this edition of GIM to bring in over ₹5 lakh crore in investment and 5 lakh jobs. How will it boost the State economy?
Yes, we are expecting over ₹5 lakh crore in investments and the creation of 5 lakh jobs through the GIM. Our aim is not only to get investments but to bring industry giants under one platform.

Karnataka is already a brand established in the global supply chain. We want other people to also be aware that Karnataka provides a very viable option in the world supply chain. The State can become more potent and we are also looking at forging partnerships with various business houses.

How far has the government succeeded in taking businesses beyond Bengaluru?
Our ‘Beyond Bengaluru’ initiatives are aimed at promoting industries across the State, especially in backward regions in north Karnataka. In order to avoid the concentration of industries in the State capital, the government is planning to expand them to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as well.

The idea is to create an industrial ecosystem beyond Bengaluru and also create jobs locally across the State. We are providing lucrative incentives to investors in order to promote Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. The New Industrial Policy 2020-25 aims for the holistic development of the State and grow Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities as new engines of economic growth. To facilitate expansions beyond Bengaluru, we are also planning new airports in Tier 2-3 cities. A slew of green energy projects was announced recently in Mangaluru. The semiconductor manufacturing industry in Mysuru and Tumakuru, the toy industries in Koppal, textile and jewellery manufacturing in Kalburgi, and foundry industries in Belagavi, and so on will spur industrial growth and create huge job opportunities in this region.

INBRIEF

Congress honours various women achievers

The Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly constituency unit of the Opposition Congress on Sunday honoured various women achievers from different walks of life at its “Indira Namana - Mahila Sankalpa” conference that had been organised to mark the 38th death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Speaking on the occasion, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar described Ms. Gandhi as a brave woman who not only initiated revolutionary measures as the Prime Minister, but also trounced Pakistan in the war.

Veteran RSS pracharak and writer passes away

Veteran RSS pracharak and Kannada writer Chandrashekhar Bhandari passed away in Bengaluru on Sunday. He was 87.

His final rites will be conducted at Banashankari crematorium on Monday at 10 a.m. According to a release, his body would be kept at RSS State office Keshava Krupa from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Monday for people to pay their last respects.

From Page One

K. Sivan, Avinash chosen for Rajyotsava award

Actor Avinash (left) and former chairman of ISRO K. Sivan

Pourakarmika Mallamma from Vijayanagara district, Daiva Narthaka Gudda Panara from Udupi, Soligara Madamma from Chamarajanagar, physically challenged swimmer Raghavendra Anvekar, Salumarada Niganna of Ramanagaram, midwife Kamalamma from Raichur, and Veeragase artiste Maheshwar Gowda Lingadahalli from Haveri district are among those who have contributed immensely in their fields but little known outside, have also been selected for the award.

While Subedar B.K. Kumaraswamy of Bengaluru has been selected for the award in the armed forces category, H.R. Sreesha and G.M. Shirahatti have been selected under the journalism category.

Among the organisations that have been chosen for the award include Thalassemia and Haemopphilia Society, Bagalkot, Agadi Thota- Haveri, Nammane Summane that works for transgenders, Nele Foundation working for rehabilitating orphans, Amrutha Sishu Nivasa, Lingayat Pragatiseeela Samsthe, Sumana Foundation, Yuva Vahini Samsthe, and Sri Umamaheshwari Backward Classes Development Trust.

Kannada and Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar said unsung heroes had been chosen for the award this time. “Several of the awardees did not even have their pictures ready. This only shows that they were not bothered about any recognition,” he noted.

The award carries a purse of ₹5 lakh, 25 gm of gold, besides a plaque.

Bommai accuses Siddaramaiah of doing nothing for OBCs

Leading the attack on the Congress leader, the Chief Minister asked why he did not increase quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes when he was in power; he lists out the govt. initiatives for development of backward communities

Kumar Buradikatti
KALABURAGI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday began its community-based conventions with the OBC Virat Samavesha in Kalaburagi, by accusing Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Siddaramaiah of doing only lip service to the welfare of the backward communities.

Leading the attack on Mr. Siddaramaiah, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai alleged that he did nothing for the development of OBCs though he talked volumes about social justice.

“You [Siddaramaiah] cannot mislead everybody all the time. People can understand. You could not make anybody from your own community, the Kurubas, a Minister in your Cabinet. Also, it was BJP leader and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa who developed Kaginele, the holy place for Kurubas,” Mr. Bommai said, while addressing a well-attended convention.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai addressing the OBC Virat Samavesha in Kalaburagi on Sunday.
ARUN KULKARNI

The convention was attended by top party brass, including Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, State unit president Nalin Kumar Kateel, former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, former Minister K.S. Eshwarappa, Union Ministers Prahlad Joshi and Bhagawanth Khuba, among others.

Mr. Bommai, whose government recently increased reservation for SC/STs, questioned Mr. Siddaramaiah as to why he did not do the same thing when he was in power.

“Mr. Siddaramaiah often says that he had a major role in the increase of reservation to SCs and STs. One must know that the Justice Nagamohan Das panel, which recommended an increase in reservation to SCs and STs, was constituted by the coalition government and not the Congress government. Why did Mr. Siddaramaiah do the same thing when he was in power? BJP took this revolutionary decision for the benefit of the SCs and STs,” Mr. Bommai said.

Listing his government’s initiatives for the development of backward communities in the State, Mr. Bommai said that he had allocated ₹354 crore for the welfare of Kuruba community members.

“Why didn’t Mr. Siddaramaiah, who hailed from the Kuruba community, take such measures for the development of his community? What moral right does he have to talk of the development of backward communities? Delivering speeches on social justice would not fill the bellies of the poor,” Mr. Bommai said.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Chauhan appealed to people of Karnataka to back the BJP again during the next Assembly elections.

Congress seeks action against Bellad after woman attempts suicide

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party came under sharp attack over allegations of harassment to women again. Days after Housing and Infrastructure Minister V. Somanna was caught slapping a poor woman on camera in Gundlupet, BJP legislator Arvind Bellad is alleged to have insulted a woman, who has now attempted suicide.

As news of the alleged attempt to suicide spread, the Congress said: “The Dalit woman who went to narrate her ordeal to Mr. Bellad tried to commit suicide after he insulted her.

Seeking answers from Chief Minister Basavraj Bommai with #SayCM hashtag, the Congress asked: “What will be your action against it? It is clear from the note written by the woman that she has attempted suicide due to the bad behaviour of the legislator”

CM desists from ordering probe into ‘bribing’ of select scribes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Blaming the Congress’ toolkit for the issue of allegedly bribing journalists on Deepavali, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday refused to order any inquiry into the allegations citing a complaint now pending before the Lokayukta.

“I have not instructed anyone (to bribe journalists). The Congress has been peddling lies about the issue,” the Chief Minister told presspersons here. When his attention was drawn towards the allegations being pointed at him and his office, the Chief Minister reiterated that he had not given instruction to anyone.

Asked if he would institute any inquiry since the allegation was at the Chief Minister’s Office, he said: “There is already a complaint with the Lokayukta. Let them inquire into the complaint.”

Stating that the entire issue of alleged bribing was a consequence of Congress toolkit, Mr. Bommai said that the Congress has no moral right to raise the issue. He said: “When the Congress was in power, it was clear that several people have sent gifts. Media has also reported about it. Be it an iPhone, laptop or even gold coin. What moral right do they have to talk now?” He also said that the allegation did not mean that all journalists have received gifts.

> When the Congress was in power, it was clear that several people have sent gifts. Media has also reported about it. Be it an iPhone, laptop or even gold coin. What moral right do they have to talk now?
>
> **BASAVARAJ BOMMAI**
> Chief Minister

Meanwhile, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar told presspersons that the alleged bribery attempt to journalists in guise of Deepavali sweets was an attempt by the government to share the 40% corruption money with the media. “I thank journalists for refusing the corrupt money and calling it out.”

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah said that the money to lure journalists came from corruption to prevent newspapers from publishing bold reports. “With what morality can the Chief Minister continue in his post,?” he wondered.

‘Conduct inquiry’
Meanwhile, A.H. Vishwanth, BJP MLC, has sought an inquiry into the episode of alleged bribing of journalists. Addressing a press conference in Mysuru, Mr. Vishwanath said the government will be found wanting if it did not order a probe into the episode. He asked Mr. Bommai to remove the media coordinator in his office, who is accused of distributing cash to select journalists along sweets.

He sought to know if the Chief Minister had given the media coordinator in his office the permission to distribute cash along with sweets or whether he had taken such a step on his own. Though a few journalists had rightly returned the cash sent along with the sweet box, the others kept the same without saying anything, he said wondering if they had accepted the same.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Hectic month for CM
With many mega functions lined up, November will be a hectic month for Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and his Cabinet colleagues. Mr. Bommai will be attending multiple functions on Karnataka Rajyotsava Day on November 1 along with Kannada and Culture Minister V. Sunil Kumar. The very next day, he will be participating in the three-day Global Investors’ Meet in Bengaluru with Industries Minister Murugesh Nirani. With Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to visit Bengaluru on November 11 for inauguration of multiple projects, Mr. Bommai will be busy in ensuring success of the public meetings. After a few days’ of break, he will be again attending Bengaluru Tech Summit 2022, which is all set to open on November 16.

Twists after twists
Alleged communal twist to school education in Karnataka is unlikely to end anytime soon as the election to the Legislative Assembly is a few months away. In a latest decision, Education Minister B.C. Nagesh *(in picture)* has ordered a survey of Arabic schools as they were allegedly not following the syllabus prescribed by the department, reportedly after a complaint that children studying in the Arabic schools were not on a par with other students. It had announced a survey of Madrasas, but it never took off. The department has been under public scanner for several issues. The ban on wearing hijab in schools continues, following a split verdict by judges of the Supreme Court. Mr. Nagesh had faced protests over “saffonisation” of school textbooks and various flipflops around this issue.

Two versions
The historic Hasanamba temple had thousands visiting during the recently concluded Hasanamba festival. Officials had a tough time managing the visits by VIPs and VVIPs.
L. Nagendra, Chamaraja (Mysuru) MLA, visited the temple with a few of his relatives and friends on October 24, when there was a long queue of devotees. A senior police officer stopped him at the entrance. The MLA got angry and reportedly tried to contact Preetham Gowda, Hassan MLA, of the BJP over the phone. However, the MLA did not receive his call.
He left the place after telling the media that he would complain to the higher officers and expressing anger over his party colleague and local MLA for his non-cooperation.
However, the next day things were completely different. Mr. Nagendra visited the temple again, and this time, he had no difficulty. Addressing the media later, Mr. Nagendra presented a completely different version. “I am happy. I did not contact Mr. Gowda yesterday. He is like my brother,” he said. Both the legislators posed for the cameras, all smiles.

Nagesh Prabhu
Sathish G.T.

INBRIEF

NSS seeks withdrawal of cases against Sabarimala devotees

The Nair Service Society (NSS) has urged the Kerala government to withdraw the cases registered in connection with the Sabarimala devotees' protests of 2018. In a statement, NSS general secretary G. Sukumaran Nair said the cases registered against the devotees including women in connection with the protest were still active. A majority of the accused were either students or job aspirants, besides the devotees who had visited the shrine for darshan. As per reports, as many as 17,000 cases were registered.

Oommen Chandy's family alleges defamation campaign

Amidst reports that former Kerala CM Oommen Chandy will soon leave for Germany for treatment, his family on Sunday flayed the alleged attempts to defame them. Chandy Oommen, his son, said that baseless allegations suggesting denial of treatment to Mr. Chandy were being levelled against the family. "We want to ensure the best treatment to our father. The misinformation campaign on social media has been so excruciating for the family," he said.

NIA officials inspect car explosion site in Coimbatore

Two officials of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Sunday inspected the October 23 car blast site in front of the Sangameswarar temple at Kottaimedu in Coimbatore.

The inspection lasted nearly two hours as policemen were deployed around the temple and traffic was stopped on Kottai Eswaran Street. This was the first time the NIA conducted a spot inquiry after the Ministry of Home Affairs transferred the case to it on October 27.

KCR claims evidence to nail BJP in bid to poach TRS MLAs

Some Delhi brokers tried to purchase Telangana's self-respect by offering allurements to them but they did not fall for it, he said at a Munugode bypoll meeting with the four legislators by his side

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Key issue: K. Chandrashekhar Rao with the four TRS MLAs at a meet in Telangana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Flanked by four Telangana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) MLAs who were targets of alleged horse-trading by the BJP, party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday asserted that abundant evidence was available to nail the BJP in the episode.

"A lot of evidence has been collected. It will be revealed in the coming days," Mr. Rao said addressing an election meeting at Bangarigadda in the Munugode Assembly constituency, where a byelection is being held on November 3. The MLAs – Pilot Rohit Reddy, Guvvala Balaraju, Beeram Harshavardhan Reddy and Rega Kantha Rao – were seated by Mr. Rao's side on the stage.

The development that took place a week ago sparked a row with the TRS charging the BJP with trying to destabilise the State government. Mr. Rao said: "Some Delhi brokers tried to purchase Telangana's self-respect by offering allurements. But they did not fall for the baits".

"Why are attempts being made to buy MLAs and MPs? Is it proper to encourage such a system which is harmful to the interests of the society," he asked.

In Telangana, Rahul Gandhi sprints with boys during Bharat Jodo Yatra

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Speeding up: Rahul Gandhi running along with children during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Telangana on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

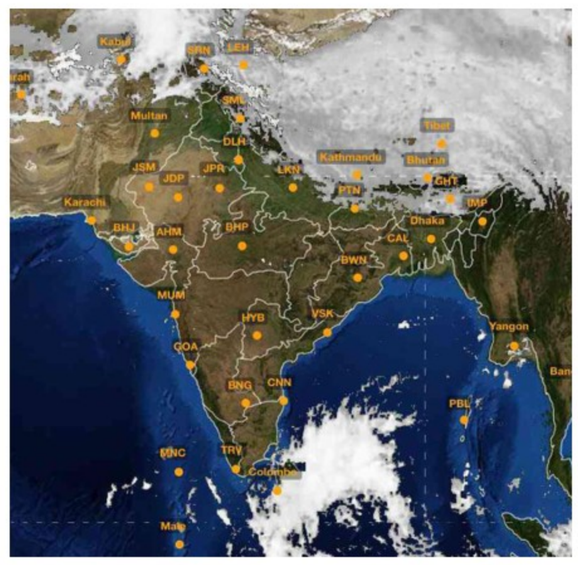
The Sunday morning in the Gollapalli area in Mahbubnagar district here was eventful as Congress leader and MP Rahul Gandhi challenged a few young boys to a race during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

Race Lagaoge (Do you want to race?), he asked the boys even as they were chatting with him and took off. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president A. Revanth Reddy and other leaders were caught off-guard and followed their leader. After running for about 50 metres, Mr. Gandhi stopped and shared a light moment with the boys. The video of the race was shared on the Twitter account of the Bharat Jodo Yatra with the comment, "Out for a marathon, but let's sprint", adding "While we are walking, let's bring up speed, let's unite to bring together the country."

Mr. Gandhi covered over 23 kilometres on the fifth day of the yatra in Telangana.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.7	23.0	Kozhikode	0.7	33.4	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	37.0	19.7	Kurnool	—	33.5	21.1
Aizawl	—	31.6	18.8	Lucknow	—	30.0	18.8
Allahabad	—	32.1	17.0	Madurai	2.0	32.7	22.9
Bengaluru	10.7	26.9	18.7	Mangaluru	1.2	32.6	24.4
Bhopal	—	32.8	15.5	Mumbai	—	34.4	20.5
Bhubaneswar	—	31.2	18.4	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.4
Chandigarh	—	30.9	17.1	New Delhi	—	30.6	14.6
Chennai	1.0	31.0	24.2	Patna	—	31.3	18.9
Coimbatore	0.4	29.0	22.4	Port Blair	46.0	29.9	22.5
Dehradun	—	27.9	13.5	Puducherry	2.2	26.7	22.4
Gangtok	—	19.9	11.3	Pune	—	30.2	14.7
Goa	—	34.4	22.8	Raipur	—	31.4	18.5
Guwahati	—	31.9	20.4	Ranchi	—	27.8	15.8
Hubballi	—	30.0	17.0	Shillong	—	24.1	12.9
Hyderabad	—	30.1	15.4	Shimla	—	—	11.4
Imphal	—	28.9	13.6	Srinagar	—	22.8	4.2
Jaipur	—	31.8	17.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	30.6	24.9
Kochi	—	30.4	24.8	Tiruchi	0.1	31.4	22.4
Kohima	—	20.8	11.4	Vijayawada	—	31.9	21.0
Kolkata	—	30.6	20.4	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	24.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.84	110	...3	...184	...198	
Bengaluru	...7	..20	.57	...142	96	
Chennai	.14	..46	114	...134	...104	
Delhi	.20	150	.32	...407	...450	
Hyderabad	...3	..38	.38	...159	...142	
Kolkata	.15	..27	.15	...173	...132	
Lucknow	.12	..76	.69	...291	...210	
Mumbai	...8	..78	.66	...214	...133	
Pune	..—	..—	..—	.....—	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	.27	..38	.19	...126	...119	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Faridabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 383 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

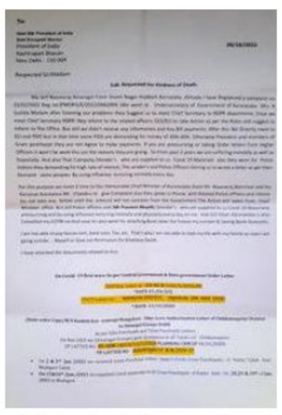
Karnataka contractor writes to President, Prime Minister seeking permission to end life

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A Hubballi-based contractor has written to the government seeking permission to end his life, alleging he was suffering due to corrupt officers demanding commission to approve his bills.

He has named a taluk panchayat officer and an MLA in his letter.

In his letter to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, A. Basavaraj has said that he was upset with the problems he was facing and would



The letter by A. Basavaraj addressed to President Droupadi Murmu.

end his life, if they permitted him to do so.

He claimed that he had supplied COVID-19 related equipment to gram panchayats in Kadur and Mudigere in Chikkamagaluru district.

He claimed that he had supplied COVID-19 related equipment to gram panchayats in Kadur and Mudigere in Chikkamagaluru

However, officers refused to pass his bills of around ₹1.12 crore, till he paid a commission of over 40%. The supplies were made to 69 GPs in 2020. Materials worth ₹85 lakh were supplied to Kadur taluk and ₹27 lakh to Mudigere taluk.

"It has been more than two years since I supplied the equipment. I had invested the money to purchase the equipment after taking loans from friends and moneylenders. Now, I am in a very bad condition as I have run out of money and I need to repay my debt. But the taluk panchayat officers are neither clearing my bills nor are they releasing the money due to me. Kadur taluk executive officer Devaraj Nayak has been demanding over 40% commission. He is also threatening me, saying he has the support of Kadur MLA Belli Prakash," he said.

Mr. Basavaraj mentioned that he had contacted the PMO and CMO several times in the past. Officers in PMO and CMO had, in turn, given instructions to taluk panchayat officers to release the money owed to him.

But, despite repeated instructions from the PMO and CMO, the taluk panchayat officers had failed to do so.

"I had also written to the Principal Secretary of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. The Principal Secretary gave directions to the taluk panchayat officials to clear the bills. But the TP officers have not acted upon those directions," he said.

Access to health services to be made easy through new Aarogya Setu interface soon

Tharun Boda
VIJAYAWADA

The Unified Health Interface (UHI) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is soon going to be made available for the public across the country through the Aarogya Setu application, says Kiran Gopal Vaska, Director, National Health Authority.

In an interaction with *The Hindu* in Vijayawada on Sunday, Mr. Kiran Gopal said that the Unified Health Interface, which brings together people and healthcare facilities and professionals from across

Initiative aims to bring together all stakeholders on one platform by end of November

all sectors and platforms, had been in the sandbox and was now ready.

"The reference applications for the users, healthcare facilities and professionals are also ready. In a week to 10 days, UHI will be offered to the public through the Aarogya Setu app. An update for Aarogya Setu will be rolled out for the same," Mr. Kiran Gopal said.

Explaining the UHI further, Mr. Kiran Gopal said it comprised three types of stakeholders: individuals seeking healthcare services, healthcare facilities and healthcare professionals.

"Any healthcare facility which has ABDM-enabled software will be on UHI. This includes the Online Registration System (ORS) of AIIMS and the existing applications such as Practo," he said and added that UHI would increase the discoverability and delivery of health services manifold.

As tourists rush to Kallippara, concerns mount over waste

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI

Amidst concerns over people leaving behind a trail of garbage on the ecologically sensitive Kallippara hills, which is witnessing a heavy tourist inflow this Neelakurinji flowering season, the civic body has decided to carry out a massive clean-up drive on Monday.

Earlier, the Santhanpara panchayat decided to close the site to visitors from Sunday, but decided to postpone the move due to heavy footfall.

A senior Forest Department official said that allowing a large number of tourists on the hills without an Environmental Impact Assessment study was a clear violation of the Biological Diversity Act.

Plastic waste littered on the Kallippara hills in Idukki.

Environmentalist M.N. Jayachandran said the hills were witnessing "overtourism". "The hills and the road to the location have no capacity to hold such a huge number of visitors in such a short span of time."

Days are no longer packed for this woman cremator in Thrissur

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

October 14 marked a milestone in the career of 30-year-old Subina Rahiman, a woman from the Muslim community who works as a cremator in a Hindu community-run facility in Thrissur. It was on that day in 2018 that Ms. Rahiman joined the SNBS Samajam-run crematorium in Irinjalakuda. The next four years have been hectic, but eventful too.

Two back-to-back floods and then COVID-19 redefined her career. Though the floods brought Irinjalakuda to its knees for two successive years, it was the COVID outbreak that had Ms. Rahiman on her toes. At the peak of the second wave, she had to cremate nearly 12 bodies a day, racing against time.

Pandemic effect: Subina Rahiman at the electric crematorium in Thrissur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Now, her days are more relaxed and she has learned to enjoy her unusual career choice. Ms. Rahiman told *The Hindu*, "I joined here as office staff and later became a funeral director in the electric crematorium when a post fell vacant. In the initial days, handling everything alone was a challenge, though there were only a few bodies then. But during the second wave, all hell broke loose," she says.

"There was a queue of bodies and often I had to push appointments for the next day or divert cases to the nearest crematorium. Normally, it takes around two hours to complete the process...I could hardly sleep on those days. It was only with the support of my husband and family that I could go on then. Now, the number of bodies have come down to five or six from 10 to 12 a day," she says. Asked about the social stigma attached to the vocation, especially in her community, she said there was some pressure on her family in the initial days.

"But, I didn't mind. The detractors never bothered about how my family gets by," says Ms. Rahiman.

Judge's unwarranted observations cited as reason for transfer

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kozhikode Principal District and Sessions Judge S. Krishnakumar, who had made certain remarks on the dress of the victim in a sexual harassment case against writer Civic Chandran, has been transferred in view of his unwarranted observations and his successive inappropriate approaches in certain other cases, the High Court Registrar-General has said in an affidavit filed before the Kerala High Court.

The affidavit was filed in response to an appeal filed by Mr. Krishnakumar against a single judge's order upholding his transfer as Presiding Officer, Labour Court, Kollam. A Division Bench had stayed his transfer when the appeal came up for hearing.

He made the controversial remarks while granting bail to Civic Chandran in a sexual harassment case. The High Court later cancelled the bail order.

The affidavit noted that the Supreme Court (SC) had laid down that inefficiency or misbehaviour could expose an officer to be transferred to a post borne on the same cadre. And such a transfer need not be preceded by a departmental inquiry.

The Division Bench reserved its verdict on the appeal.

United against terror

India must continue to persuade others that terrorism is a threat to humanity

India's decision to host the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is an important marker of the Government's ongoing effort to highlight terrorism issues at a time the global body has been more focused on the Ukraine war. Held in Mumbai and Delhi, it brought UN officials, and ministers and diplomats from all members of the Security Council (UNSC), to discuss challenges to the global counter-terrorism architecture. In Mumbai, the spotlight was on the 26/11 attacks. Despite the global nature of the terror targets, India has had an uphill battle since 2008 in international cooperation to pursue the case, and in bringing the lone surviving attacker, Ajmal Kasab, through a full trial and execution. After a brief period of information sharing, Pakistan has dragged its feet on prosecuting even LeT commanders Hafiz Saeed, Zaki-ur-Rahman Lakhvi and others that its Federal Investigative Agency held responsible for the attacks. During the UNSC conference, the attendees heard not only from victims of the attacks but also voice samples of LeT recruiter Sajid Mir directing terrorists during the attacks; even so Mir, now in a Pakistani prison on terror financing charges, after Pakistan's grey-listing at the Financial Action Task Force mandated action, has not been tried. The U.S., which has cooperated in many other ways with India on terrorism, convicted conspirators David Headley and Tahawwur Rana for the attacks, but has refused to extradite them. Meanwhile, China continues to block designating LeT leaders on the UNSC 1267 terror list, a problem External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken specifically mentioned at the conference.

In Delhi, the CTC focus was on online radicalisation and terror recruitment, terror financing through crypto-currency and virtual assets, and unmanned aerial system use including drones for terror strikes, transporting drugs and arms. The deliberations led to the "Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes". While India has only two months left in its current elected tenure at the UNSC, the Government appears to be making efforts to keep up the momentum from the CTC meet; it will host an international "No Money For Terror" conference (November 18-19), and a UNSC special briefing on challenges to global counter-terrorism efforts (December 15-16). As the Indian experience with 26/11 has shown, the global community has often been long on statements but short on cooperative action, and New Delhi will have to keep pressing the point that terrorism remains, in Mr. Jaishankar's words, amongst the "gravest threats to humanity".

A bird in the hand

Twitter under Elon Musk risks deterioration in content standards

Of all the social media behemoths today, Twitter, Inc. is a curious creature. It has nearly 240 million "daily access" users, which includes political and corporate leaders besides personalities who command an immense following. Twitter's unique selling point is its provision to not only put up 280-character messages but also be a platform featuring the dissemination of information, as breaking news, debates, discussion and even for the mobilisation of people. Yet, financially, Twitter has posted losses in eight out of the last 10 years, with its market value never managing to reach the heights of peers such as Meta's Facebook and Instagram or even Tiktok. By selling the company to the world's richest man, Elon Musk, for a whopping $44 billion after a few shenanigans, Twitter's shareholders finally made a killing even as Mr. Musk, in his first post-acquisition actions, fired some top executives. But the question on everyone's minds is about what might happen to the platform as a free speech vehicle under a truly maverick owner. Mr. Musk, who has made most of his money as the owner of electric vehicle company Tesla and spacecraft and exploration venture SpaceX, could provide business ideas that could secure the firm's finances. Yet, as a Twitter user with the third highest number of followers, he has been prone to erratic outbursts, silly posturing and crass remarks, and frowning upon regulation by the company of its content in the past, begging the question whether the ownership change will lead to a deterioration in content standards.

Twitter, like other social media giants, has faced difficulties in ridding its platform of disinformation, harassment through trolling, hate speech and calls for violence. Recently, it blocked former U.S. President Trump, a popular yet incendiary user, and started flagging select posts for misleading content or propaganda. For Indian users, the aforementioned challenges have been exacerbated by the Government seeking ways to control content, a scarier proposition, through changes to Internet intermediary rules. While Mr. Musk has argued for a freer space with little regulation, he has, since his purchase, tempered those views in favour of better and cleaner moderation of content, ostensibly to not lose advertisers wary of lending their brand to problematic content. While it remains to be seen if this is merely yet another instance of Mr. Musk's posturing, the larger question of whether Twitter will remain a relevant brand will be answered in the manner in which the world's richest man will treat governments and establishments in keeping reasonable and free speech intact on the platform and not subsume it to his business interests.

The extra-constitutional delusions of Raj Bhavan

A tweet put out recently by the office of the Kerala Governor evoked nationwide attention for all the wrong reasons. It said: "... the statements of individual Ministers that lower the dignity of the office of the Governor can invite action including withdrawal of pleasure". Raj Bhavan did not explicitly say that such Ministers would be expelled. But, going by the text of Article 164(1) of the Constitution – that the "Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the Governor" – the indication was clear. This was made even more apparent when the Governor sent a letter to the Kerala Chief Minister asking him to act against the State Finance Minister, who, according to the Governor, had "ceased to enjoy" the Governor's "pleasure". The Chief Minister declined to do so.

Kaleeswaram Raj

is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

There are political, constitutional facets

This unprecedented and curious gubernatorial gesture has political and constitutional facets. The Governor's other move, in the meantime, for ousting Vice-Chancellors of universities in the State, alleging deficits in their appointment process, is purported to be in exercise of his statutory power as Chancellor. As against the Ministers, he has no such special power. He can only act within the bounds of the Constitution.

The function of the appointed Governor is always subject to the policies of the elected government, and not vice-versa. This is a foundational theory of India's constitutional democracy. Constitutional provisions cannot be read in isolation. Article 163(1) says that the Council of Ministers must aid and advise the Governor. However, according to Article 163(2), the Governor can act in his discretion in certain matters as permitted by the Constitution. This would mean that the Governor is generally bound by the Cabinet decision except when he has a legitimate right to invoke his discretion, say, for example, in deciding on sanction to prosecute a Cabinet Minister or in his decisions as Administrator of a Union Territory, as per the orders of the President of India, etc. Article 164, which contains the provision relevant in the context of the Kerala Governor's tweet and letter is inseparable from Article 163. Therefore, it follows that unless the Cabinet or the Chief Minister advises the expulsion of a Minister, the Governor cannot cause the exit of a particular Minister by "withdrawing pleasure".

The jurist H.M. Seervai gave an explanation about the spirit of Article 163, which, in a way, is a prologue to Article 164(1) dealing with "pleasure". He said, "if Governors have discretion in all matters under Article 163(1), it would be unnecessary to confer on Governors an express power to act in their discretion in a few specified matters (by way of Article 163(2))" *(Constitutional Law of India*, Vol.2, Universal, 1993, page 2,037).

> The function of the appointed Governor, who is bound by the constitutional scheme, is always subject to the policies of the elected government, and not vice-versa

One finds a democratic reading of Article 164 in the Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court of India in *Shamsher Singh vs State of Punjab* (1974). In *Shamsher Singh*, for the purpose of comparison, the Supreme Court extracted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's introductory statement made on November 4, 1948 in the Constituent Assembly, which said: "The President of the United States is not bound to accept any advice tendered to him by any of his secretaries. The President of the Indian Union will be generally bound by the advice of his Ministers. He can do nothing contrary to their advice nor can he do anything without their advice. The President of the United States can dismiss any Secretary at any time. The President of the Indian Union has no power to do so, so long as his Ministers command a majority in Parliament".

The same principles apply to the Governors as well, since the Union Minister also holds the office "during the pleasure of the President" as in Article 75(2) of the Constitution. "Withdrawal of pleasure", without advice from the Council of Ministers, as indicated by Raj Bhavan is a misconception.

A titular head

Understanding the constitutional meaning of Article 164(1), which is different from its literal meaning, requires a historical reading of the provision. The draft Constitution, prepared by the Constitutional Adviser in October 1947, contained Article 126, according to which, "Governor's Ministers shall be chosen and summoned by (the Governor) and shall hold office during his pleasure". This Article, which was made part of the draft of the erstwhile Article 144, was discussed at length in the Constituent Assembly. The general discretion with the Governor was taken away, and the Cabinet was given the authority to rule. Amendment to the draft Article 144 moved by B.R. Ambedkar resulted in the present constitutional scheme of Articles 163 and 164.

Referring to the speech of Ambedkar, scholar Subhash C. Kashyap has put it pithily, "The words 'during pleasure' were, always understood to mean that the 'pleasure' should not continue when the Ministry had lost the confidence of the majority; and the moment the Ministry lost the confidence of the majority, the Governor would use his 'pleasure' in dismissing it" *(Constitutional Law of India*, Vol. 2., Universal, 2015, page 1,249). Therefore, the Article implies that the Governor is only a titular head of the State and that if the Cabinet has majority, the Governor cannot act against the Cabinet.

Addressing a concern

The Governor's office has a colonial origin. The Government of India Act, 1858 situated the post of Governor under the supervision of the Governor General. The subsequently promulgated Government of India Act, 1935 was enforced with effect from April 1, 1937. Even as per this act, Governors were to act based on the advice of the provincial Government.

The potential danger that could be posed by continuation of the colonial institution was a matter of concern for the makers of the Constitution. During the deliberations, H.V. Kamath asked if there was any guarantee against abuse of power by the Governor. The immediate reaction by P.S. Deshmukh, another prominent member was: "the guarantee.... is the Governor's wisdom and the wisdom of the authority that will appoint the Governor" (Constituent Assembly Debates, June 2, 1949).

But this romanticism of the Constitution was to be translated to a level of judicial realism and pragmatism, which the Supreme Court did in *Shamsher Singh*. Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer, in that judgment, and in his characteristic style, has given the best possible response to the extra-constitutional delusions of the Raj Bhavans: "The omnipotence of the President and of the Governor at State level is.... with the obvious intent that even where express conferment of power or functions is written into the Articles, such business has to be disposed of decisively by the Ministry answerable to the Legislature and, through it, vicariously to the people, thus vindicating our democracy instead of surrendering it to a single summit soul, whose deification is incompatible with the basics of our political architecture...."

So, the Constitution Bench has to prevail over the Governor's tweet and letter.

A check over of the U.S.'s much anticipated NSS

The United States has launched its much anticipated National Security Strategy (NSS). All U.S. Presidents are mandated by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 to bring out their NSS, to communicate the executive's vision of national security to the legislative. As a comprehensive document, the NSS reflects certainty about how the government of the day views the national security agenda. Alternatively, the NSS also gives the Congress an opportunity to assess the cost that the country will have to bear and the areas of investments to achieve the nation's security goals.

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Focus on leadership and alliances

The Biden administration's NSS primarily focuses on the current decade as a 'decisive' one in which the U.S. seeks to sustain U.S. leadership, improve the U.S. economy, build on a vast network of alliances and partnerships; counter China as its strategic competitor and Russia as a disruptor, and boost U.S. competitiveness and defend democracy. The document portrays the ambitious agenda of the Biden administration to cover a comprehensive set of transnational challenges tying the domestic with the international. These include climate change, food insecurity, pandemics, terrorism, energy shortages and inflation. Besides, the administration's NSS has considerable focus on outer space security and governance.

The NSS lays down three main fulcrums of U.S. strategy going forward: invest; build and modernise. It seeks to invest in the "tools of American power and influence" by strengthening the economy at home, improving critical infrastructure and investing in technologies such as microchips and semiconductors. Consistent with this approach, effective October 12, the Biden administration has imposed a slew of sanctions impacting the U.S. sale of semiconductors to China as well as the ability of U.S. citizens and residents to work in chip companies in China. Furthermore, the NSS seeks to build 'the strongest possible coalition of nations' – a recognition of both the U.S.'s ambitions as well as limitations in driving global geopolitics unilaterally. Finally, the modernisation sought by the U.S. is intended to cater to the wide-ranging demands of internal and external security, simultaneously. These capability enhancements underscore the recognition by the U.S. of the unprecedented scale and scope of strategic competition with China. It names China as the 'only competitor' with the capability and intent to shape the international order in a fundamental way.

> The release of the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review reinforces the central message of the Biden administration's National Security Strategy, which focuses on the current decade as being a 'decisive' one

Outcompeting China, restraining Russia

The NSS takes both a long-term and an immediate view of the China threat and the challenges emerging from Beijing. While it seeks to outline a joint strategy to tackle external challenges for the U.S. by out-competing China and constraining Russia, it is asymmetrically tilted in its focus on threats from China despite an active war in which Russia is involved. The Biden administration places competition with China at the centre of its decadal outlook, which is increasingly global in character and most pronounced in the Indo-Pacific region across a range of domains such as the economy, technology, development, security, global governance and diplomacy. The NSS is clear about the opposition to any unilateral change to Taiwan's status by China, portending a contested Indo-Pacific region between China on one hand and a host of democratic partners on the other. Therefore, forging collective capacity through international partnerships and creating new alliances for tackling shared challenges lie at the heart of the NSS. This also forms an essential strategy for the U.S. to synchronously compete with China, constrain Russia, tackle non-traditional threats and transnational challenges such as climate change, communicable diseases, food security and inflation. The NSS makes a serious case for downgraded Russian economy, military, soft power and influence globally, even as it identifies countries such as Japan and India to fill the emerging gaps. One such process at which the NSS hints is India's possible integration in important global forums such as the G7. Here, some of the expectations in the NSS reflect the U.S. interests purely and may not be entirely in sync with those of its other Indo-Pacific partners.

India as partner

The Biden administration's NSS identifies India as both a bilateral and multilateral partner in the Indo-Pacific, but, more importantly, its status as the largest democracy and a major defence partner. As India looks to diversify and indigenise its defence needs in the medium and long term, the NSS lays out the space for partnership between India and the U.S. India's partnership in the Indo-Pacific has been assessed as critical in building a "latticework of strong, resilient and mutually reinforcing relationships" through regional partnerships such as the Quad (India, Australia, Japan the U.S.) and the I2U2 (India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and the U.S).

Mr. Biden's NSS serves three broad purposes. It completes the strategic vision embarked upon by the Interim National Security Strategic Guidance released in March 2021; it seeks to provide further clarity and direction on various policy verticals by the Biden administration; and, finally, it marks an end to one of the most important political expectations about presidential doctrines in the U.S. The NSS comes just before the mid-term elections in November this year and could prove useful in amassing political support for President Biden and the Democratic Party by way of policy clarity.

A critical part of the NSS is to inform the U.S. Department of Defense's strategy, especially in the two areas of the country's nuclear posture and missile defence. As such, the NSS's release – delayed by the Russia-Ukraine war – appears to be a timely assessment in the backdrop of the Russia-Ukraine war with one of the most potent possibilities for the use of a nuclear weapon since the Cuban Missile crisis (1962). The Biden administration also released the National Defense Strategy, the Nuclear Posture Review and the Missile Defense Review last week further reinforcing the central message of the NSS, thereby aligning the nation's ends, ways and means and rounding off the arc of the national security assessment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Defuse the Ukraine war

Despite India's various 'non-aligned comments' on the Russia-Ukraine conflict, New Delhi has still to see any reaction from Moscow. Whether it was the Defence Secretary dialogue in which Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh put forward India's views on the use of nuclear weapons, or Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comment to President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand, there is just quiet. What is intriguing is Russia remaining continually silent when one of its biggest supporters globally has time and again spoke out against the war.

Prakul Sisodia,
Jodhpur, Rajasthan

The Russia-Ukraine war has proved the dictum that it is easy to begin a war but difficult to end it. Coming on the heels of the pandemic, the war has caused a profound humanitarian and economic crisis. The international community must bring both the parties to the table and solve the issue through dialogue and diplomacy.

B. Vidhyadharini,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

The callous and careless attitudes on both sides of the conflict make it obvious that there is no sane leader on either side. Both sides have now resorted to indiscriminate accusations, leading to even greater tensions and the threat of a nuclear war. It is even more appalling that there seems to be no globally respected leader who is willing to take any initiative to diffuse the situation. Commerce, trade and not so enlightened self interest seem to be dictating the behaviour of all top leaders. They cleverly mask their apathy in meaningless diplomatic language, little realising the very existence of this planet is at stake. There has to be "take some give some" both ways. Is the UN listening?

A.S. Srinivasan,
Chennai

On phosphorus

In the very informative article on banana (October 30), the reference to its nutritive value implies elemental phosphorus (noun). The spelling "phosphorous" is when used as an adjective, as in phosphorous pentoxide — what I used to tell my chemistry students!

R. Wilfred Sugumar
Chennai

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A month before polls, what is on the Gujarat voter's mind?

A recent survey on governance and development in the State brings out the importance of the economic plight of the people

CSDS-LOKNITI SURVEY

When Narendra Modi entered the national political arena in 2013-14, he was portrayed as the mascot of the Gujarat model of development. Now, nearly a decade later, do memories of that model resonate with the Gujarati voter? As Assembly elections approach, do the voters of Gujarat still take pride in that memory?

Primary concerns

A recent survey of governance and development in the State, conducted by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), vividly brings out the actual economic plight of the people rather than the mere symbolism of the Gujarat model. Responding to an open-ended question (where answers were not prompted), two-thirds of the voters spontaneously mentioned two issues that they would consider at the time of voting: price rise and unemployment. Between them, price rise was the more commonly listed issue with over half the respondents mentioning it.

Five years ago, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Assembly elections, even after Mr. Modi's departure to Delhi, only one in seven had mentioned price rise as the main issue. In fact, in 2017, the perception of the voters was far more lacking in focus (Table 1). Today, besides half the voters mentioning price rise and another 15% mentioning unemployment, 6% also mentioned poverty as an issue. This takes the tally of economy-related issues to over seven out of 10 respondents. Thus, there is every likelihood that the ruling party in the State will have a lot of explanation to offer to the voters on the economic situation in the State in the coming election.

A wall in Ahmedabad. VIJAY SONEJI

> The ruling party may choose to focus on performance to sidetrack the possible negative perceptions about the economy

While it is not extraordinary for voters to mention unemployment and/or poverty as their main issues, the current concern over price rise far outnumbers similar concerns in some other States that recently went to the polls (Table 2). This concern is almost uniformly felt among most sections of Gujarati society. Half the urban respondents mentioned the issue and a little over a half of those in rural areas spoke of it.

How this concern plays out during the campaign and what it means when voters finally vote is another question. It will take extraordinary political skills for the BJP to induce the voters to forget their main concern about the economy just as it requires innovative strategies by the Opposition to make the voters believe that the ruling party is responsible for the economic condition. Evidence of the last few elections suggest that the Opposition has failed in its attempts to pin the blame on the ruling party for both price rise and unemployment and convince voters of the same.

Two subtexts are likely to intervene in this apparently straightforward story of the economy cornering the ruling party. One, while voters think of price rise spontaneously, much would depend on the menu of issues that would be offered through the campaign. As Table 3 shows, besides economy, there is considerable salience to the idea of 'change' when it is offered as one of the specific issues during this election. However, Hindutva too appeals to half the respondents as an election issue.

The second subtext is that the overall assessment of the performance of the State government and the reporting on the benefits of various schemes reaching the voters are robust. The ruling party may therefore choose to focus on performance to sidetrack the possible negative perceptions about the economy.

An important question

These subtexts lead to an important question. When it comes to making a choice on election day, what are the various factors that influence voters' choice? While surveys have indicated time and again that price rise and unemployment are the most critical issues in the mind of the voters, do they choose to stick to their native sense about the economy or does the election become much more complex with sociopolitical interventions and issues taking a front seat? Do economic factors matter for the common people, but take a back seat on election day as there are other priorities that determine electoral choices?

The answer to this question will largely determine the direction of the voters' choice in Gujarat.

Table 1: What weighs on the voters' mind a month before the Gujarat election?

	2017	2022
Price rise	15%	51%
Unemployment	11%	15%
Work of the government	--	6%
Poverty /hunger	9%	6%
Others	65%	22%

The way the question was worded: When you vote/ In case you vote in the coming Gujarat Assembly election, what will be the most important issues for you while voting?

Table 2: Price rise was not on top on voters' mind in other States which went to the polls recently

	Gujarat	Goa	Punjab	U.P.	Uttarakhand
Price rise	51%	3%	2%	6%	6%
Unemployment	15%	8%	9%	7%	14%
Work of the government	6%	7%	7%	10%	9%

Table 3: Various issues which voters think are very important for the Gujarat election

	Very important
Price rise	84%
Unemployment	77%
Parivartan (change)	52%
Hindutva	50%
Lumpy disease	41%
Caste-related discrimination	35%
Release of convicts in Bilkis Bano rape case	28%
Patidar OBC status demand	14%

The way the question was worded: How important will the following issues be for you in the upcoming Assembly elections – very important, somewhat important, not much, or not at all?

Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal campaigns in Ahmedabad. PTI

A note on methodology

The findings presented here are from a survey-based governance study conducted in Gujarat by the Lokniti programme of CSDS, Delhi. The survey was conducted between October 10 and October 23, 2022. A total of 2,135 voters spread across 80 polling stations in 20 Assembly constituencies, which were randomly selected, were interviewed for the survey. The field work of the survey was coordinated by Mahashweta Jani and supervised by Siddhraj Parmar in Gujarat.

The sampling design adopted was multi-stage systematic random sampling (SRS). The Assembly constituencies were randomly selected using the probability proportional to size method. Thereafter, four polling stations within each of the sampled Assembly constituencies was selected using the SRS method. In each polling station, 40 voters were randomly sampled from the electoral roll using the SRS method. The interviews were conducted face-to-face at electors' homes by specially trained field investigators, mostly students from various colleges and universities in Gujarat.

The questionnaire for the survey was translated into Gujarati. The investigators spent a good amount of time with each respondent as each interview took between 20 and 25 minutes to be completed.

Though the sample is relatively small, the total number of voters interviewed represents the social reality of the voters of Gujarat, i.e. the sample is truly representative of the voters of Gujarat with regard to social composition. In order to make correction for under-representation of any social groups, weights have been applied.

The Lokniti team which coordinated and analysed the data comprised Vibha Attri, Jyoti Mishra, Himanshu Kapoor, Rishikesh Yadav, Himanshu Bhattacharya and Dhananjay Kumar Singh.

Sanjay Kumar directed this study.

Table 1: Social profile of achieved sample

	Census	Sample Achieved
Female	47.9	53
Urban	42.6	45
Dalit	6.7	8
Adivasi	14.8	15
Muslim	9.7	5

Do Gujarati voters support populist politics?

Mahashweta Jani

Populist policies in Gujarat have been part of election euphoria for several decades now. In the 1990s, Narmada as the *jivadori* (lifeline) of Gujarat through the Sardar Sarovar dam was very much part of the election campaigns for both the Congress and the BJP. In 2012, the Congress's Ghar nu Ghar scheme, where the party promised to provide affordable housing for the urban poor and for rural dwellers if it come to power, got thousands of women standing in queue to register for the housing scheme before the elections.

In the electoral contest today, the scene has changed as there is a third party on the ground to attract the voters with promises of free electricity, free education, employment for the youth and a corruption-free Gujarat. In Gujarat, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is campaigning on populist policies especially on the basis of its model of Delhi and Punjab, focusing on subsidised and free electricity and education. The BJP, too, is seeking the support of the voters on the basis of what it projects as its good record on national policies and good governance for more than two decades in the State. The Congress too has included populist schemes in its agenda.

The Lokniti-CSDS survey tried to look at these populist promises and the impact of these on Gujarat's voters. Close to half the respondents believe that populist policies are necessary to give relief to the common people (Table 1). Interestingly, a majority of those who hold this view are BJP voters. Two-thirds of those who felt that these populist policies are bad for the economy are also supporters of the BJP. Thus, the BJP support base is divided on the impact of populist policies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves at supporters in Ahmedabad. PTI

The AAP's vigorous campaign revolves around price rise and the need to give a chance to a new player. It is important to underscore the fact that of those who felt that populist policies were essential for giving relief to the common people, about one-fourth supported the AAP and another one-fourth backed the Congress (Table 1).

An interesting pattern emerges when we look at the educational background of the respondents and their response to populist policies. With greater access to education, the support for giving relief to the common people through populist measures increases. The trend clearly indicates that populist policies seem to find favour among those with higher levels of education and among urban respondents.

The media is definitely one of the main tools for political parties to communicate with voters. It is clear that with the increase in media exposure, the opinions on populist policies become more clear (Table 3). Post COVID-19, at a time of inflation, populist politics as played out by the political parties appear to be a key factor in the coming Gujarat elections.

Mahashweta Jani is State coordinator of Gujarat for Lokniti-CSDS

Table 1: Opinion on populist policies and voting intention

	All	Congress	BJP	AAP	Others
Bad for State's economy	13	8	68	15	9
Necessary to give relief to the common people	46	26	42	26	6
Both	29	18	49	21	12
Difficult to say	12	24	41	17	18

The way the question was worded: Some people believe that populist policies such as free electricity, free-of-cost services, subsidies and cash allowances are bad for the economy and development of the State, while others believe that such policies are necessary to give relief to the common man in these inflationary times. What is your opinion?

Table 2: Opinion on populist policies among different sections of voters

	Bad for State's economy	Necessary to give relief to the common people	Both	Difficult to say
All	13	46	29	12
Non-literate	13	39	27	21
Up to primary	16	46	28	10
Up to matriculation	13	45	31	11
Intermediate-under graduate	11	51	31	7
College and above	13	53	29	5
Rural	13	39	31	17
Urban	14	55	27	4

Table 3: Opinion on populist policies among people with different levels of media exposure

	Bad for State's economy	Necessary to give relief to the common people	Both	Difficult to say
No exposure	20	33	30	17
Low exposure	11	53	25	11
Medium exposure	12	48	30	10
High exposure	12	38	42	8

From Page One

90 drown in Gujarat river as bridge collapses

President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief at the loss of lives. The Prime Minister announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the PM's National Relief Fund for the next of kin of each of the deceased. The injured will be given ₹50,000. The Chief Minister announced an ex gratia of ₹4 lakh for the next of kin of each of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured. The State government has also set up a five-member committee to inquire into the incident. The government has officially not given any casualty figure but the Prime Minister and Chief Minister have announced the ex gratia for the dead and for the injured. The tragedy has occurred ahead of the upcoming Assembly election, causing massive embarrassment to the ruling BJP, which has lined up several big events and public rallies of Mr. Modi for October 31 and November 1. According to sources, the BJP is contemplating cancelling the Prime Minister's roadshow and other political events in the State. Mr. Modi may visit Morbi tomorrow to take stock of the situation.
(*With PTI inputs*)

DNA tests still fall under a grey area

But the issue is problematised by the varying stances of both the apex court and High Courts that tend to focus on the particularities of each case. Women's rights activists, however, hold that a DNA test is the only tool which can deliver justice in cases of abandonment of mothers and children. Take the example of Keerti (name changed) from Delhi, who asked for a DNA test to determine the paternity of her child after her husband deserted her making claims of infidelity. Left to fend for herself with a six-month-old child, she knocked on judicial doors after the husband's family denied the request; the case is pending before the family court.

"Is physical autonomy above justice to the child?" asks Brinda Adige of Global Concerns India. "The woman can establish the paternity of the child only if the DNA of the man matches." While determining paternity goes a long way towards securing financial support from an estranged partner, lawyer Sumithra Acharya says it is not so much about women's rights as child rights. "DNA may not be conclusive proof in cases of heinous crimes like rape but for paternity, protection has always been towards the children."

Precedents set by the Supreme Court through the years show that judges cannot order genetic tests as a "roving enquiry" (*Bhabani Prasad Jena, 2010*) and they must balance "the interests of the parties" (*Banarsi Dass, 2005*); DNA tests should also not be ordered if there was other material evidence at hand to prove the case. In its *Ashok Kumar* judgment, the court said judges, before ordering a genetic test, should examine "proportionality of the legitimate aims" being pursued. But seven years ago, the court heard a man's plea for a DNA test to prove his wife's infidelity and the parentage of their child and sought a test to be done on himself and the child. The court agreed reasoning there was no other way for him to know. It said the wife could refuse but would risk presumptions being drawn against her. Then again, as the 'XX' case demonstrates, there are no easy answers or legal certitudes.

While dealing with claims of infidelity, a request for DNA test also competes with the conclusiveness of Section 112 of the Indian Evidence Act, which presumes that a child born to a married woman is legitimate – the burden of proof is on the person claiming illegitimacy of the child. While the imperative of justice jostles with that of bodily autonomy, the Constitution Bench judgment in the *K.S. Puttaswamy* case recognising privacy as part of the fundamental right to life has only buttressed the privacy argument as the government's bid to pilot the DNA Technology Regulation Bill, 2019 through Parliament hangs fire.

Assam Police told to keep a watch on foreign preachers

27 foreigners deported in a month for 'proselytisation on tourist visas'; SPs of all districts directed to monitor religious gatherings and check the travel documents of foreigners who attend them

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has instructed the Superintendents of Police (SPs) of all the districts in the State to keep a watch on foreigners who proselytise by violating tourist visa norms.

The instruction followed the detention and deportation of 27 foreign nationals – 17 Bangladeshi and 10 Europeans – from three districts of eastern Assam in about a month. All of them came on tourist visas and not missionary visas that allow restricted religious activities, the police said.

"We have instructed the SPs of all the districts to monitor religious gatherings and check the travel documents of foreigners who attend them," Assam's Special Director-General of Police Gyanendra Pratap Singh told presspersons.

The police are also trying to find out how and why the foreign tourists ended up proselytising. "One has to understand that there are two types of visas – tourist and missionary. The rules say a foreigner cannot get involved in religious activities on a tourist visa. The rules allow certain religious activities on a missionary visa, but not religious conversions or proselytisation," he said. Mr. Singh said the police took action in all the cases after gathering evidence. The 17 Bangladeshi nationals allegedly violated visa norms by attending and preaching at an Islamic programme in Biswanath district, while the 10 Europeans were caught sermonising at Christian events in Dibrugarh and Golaghat districts, the police said.

On the way back: The Assam Police deported seven Germans for alleged proselytisation. ANI

Swedish nationals held

Three Swedish nationals were detained after attending a religious programme for tea plantation workers in Naharkatiya on October 26. Two days later, seven Germans were detained on similar charges from a resort in the Kaziranga National Park.

Each foreigner found guilty of violating the visa norms was fined $500 in keeping with an order of the Union Home Ministry, officials said.

"We have details of which religious gathering they participated in and which churches they went to for preaching," Mr. Singh said, adding that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been firm on not allowing any illegal activities by foreign nationals in Assam.

Assam Tourism officials said the action against the Europeans will not affect the tourism industry in the State. "We leave no stone unturned to ensure a pleasant stay for foreigners in the State. Only about 4-5% of tourists violate visa conditions," an official said.

Attempts being made for presidential form of govt., says Mamata

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Bengal CM accuses media of conducting trials on various issues before the court gives verdict

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday alleged that democratic powers were being seized by a "section of people" which, she felt, may lead to a presidential form of government in the country.

Urging the judiciary and leaders in different fields to "save democracy", the Chief Minister said if this trend continued, then a day would come when a presidential form of government would be brought in the country. Without naming the BJP, she implied that the ruling party was behind the move. Speaking at the convocation ceremony of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS), she urged the judiciary to ensure that the federal structure of the country remained intact.

"All the democratic powers are being seized by a section of people; this might be going on for (bringing in) a presidential form of government," Ms. Banerjee said. Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit, who is the Chancellor of the university, was present.

She said people were being harassed "unnecessarily". The Chief Minister has tussled with the NDA government at the Centre on several occasions over the powers of the State government and the Union government.

Claiming that people were "crying behind closed doors", Ms. Banerjee said she believed that the judiciary had to act as their saviour. She came down on the media accusing it of conducting media trials and making accusations against persons even before the judiciary could deliver its verdict. "Our only prestige is our respect... it cannot come back if it is taken away," she said.

CAA is a benign piece of legislation, Home Ministry tells SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court had fixed the hearing on 220 petitions challenging the CAA of 2019 on Oct. 31

The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) is a "benign piece of legislation" which seeks to provide a relaxation, in the nature of an amnesty, to specific communities from specified countries with a clear cut-off date, the Home Ministry told the Supreme Court on Sunday.

The Act fast-tracks citizenship-by-naturalisation process for "illegal migrants" from six religious communities, other than Muslims, who have fled persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. The court had fixed the hearing on 220 petitions challenging the CAA of 2019 on October 31.

The government said "the CAA is a specific amendment which seeks to tackle a specific problem, i.e., the persecution on the ground of religion in the light of the undisputable theocratic constitutional position in these countries, the systematic functioning of these States and the perception of fear that may be prevalent amongst minorities as per the de facto situation".

Parliament, in its competence, has passed the law taking into consideration the acknowledged class of minorities in three countries. It said the plight of these classified communities had been attracting the attention of successive governments.

"But no government took any legislative measure and merely acknowledged the problem and took some administrative action through executive instructions regarding entry, stay and citizenship issues of these communities," it said.

The CAA, the government said, was a "narrowly tailored legislation" seeking to address the problem which awaited India's attention for a solution since several decades.

J&K pride of India, time for its youth to take advantage of new possibilities: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Describing Jammu and Kashmir as the "pride of every Indian", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the youth were the strength of J&K and the time had come to leave behind the old challenges and take advantage of the new possibilities.

Addressing virtually the Jammu and Kashmir Rozgar Mela at the Kashmir International Convention Centre here, Mr. Modi said, "Jammu and Kashmir is the pride of every Indian. Together we have to take the Union Territory to new heights. We also have a huge goal of a developed India of 2047 and to fulfil it we have to engage in nation-building with strong determination."

He said the youth in J&K were coming forward in large numbers for the development of J&K. "Now is the time to leave the old challenges behind and take full advantage of the new possibilities," he said.

> Together we have to take the U.T. to new heights. We have a goal of a developed India in 2047 and we have to engage in nation-building
> **NARENDRA MODI**

Around 3,000 appointment letters were given to youth across 20 districts. He said that J&K youth would write a new story of development in the 21st century. "We have to work with a new approach, with new thinking," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister also praised the Lieutenant-Governor's administration in J&K. "International flights from Srinagar to Sharjah have already begun. Farmers here have also benefited a great deal from increased connectivity," Mr. Modi said.

Manoj Sinha said the new appointees would play a vital role of reinforcing the values in public service and serve the people with honesty, absolute integrity and truthfulness.

"Youth is the strength of J&K. In the past three years, J&K has made rapid progress in empowering youth, farmers and women. J&K is today offering vast scope for self-employment, both in manufacturing and service sectors, and helping the young entrepreneurs with training, credit and market access, technical inputs to create a lot of employment opportunities," he said.

Mr. Modi said efforts were on to strengthen the health and education infrastructure with the opening of two new AIIMS, seven new medical colleges, two cancer institutes and 15 nursing colleges.

EC's two-day international conference begins today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) will host a two-day international conference on the "Role, framework and capacity of election management bodies" in the national capital starting on Monday.

The conference will be inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar.

As the lead for the Cohort on Election Integrity, which was established following the Summit for Democracy held in December, the commission said it had taken a collaborative approach and invited Greece, Mauritius and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) to be co-leads.

The commission has also invited the United Nations Development Program and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), apart from electoral and governmental counterparts dealing with the conduct of elections worldwide, for the event.

Cong. attacks Rijiju over his remarks on Nehru's handling of Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress continued to target Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju for his criticism of Jawaharlal Nehru on the Kashmir issue, with senior leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday claiming that a BJP ideologue told him that "vilifying Nehru is one thing but exalting erstwhile ruler Hari Singh as a benevolent hero takes the cake".

On Thursday, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India, Mr. Rijiju had written an article for a news website in which he pointed out Nehru's "blunders", including enacting Article 370 and taking the dispute with Pakistan to the United Nations. "I spoke to a BJP ideologue this morning about Kiren Rijiju, the latest entrant to the club of Distorians," Mr. Ramesh retorted in a tweet to allude that the Law Minister had "distorted history".

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh addressing a press conference at the AICC office in New Delhi on October 25. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"He (the BJP idealogue) sent me the following message: The strange thing is, Nehru being vilified is one thing, Hari Singh being exalted as some sort of upright & benevolent hero takes the cake," added the senior Congress leader without naming the "BJP ideologue".

Listing out "five Nehruvian blunders", including floating the idea of a plebiscite and terming J&K's accession as provisional, Mr. Rijiju said it was important to realise past mistakes to build a new future.

On Saturday, senior party leader Anand Sharma asked for an apology from the Law Minister. "I can only pity the mental bankruptcy of Minister Rijiju. He has no understanding of history, there is no proof, no evidence," Mr. Sharma said.

"I would say the Prime Minister should rein in Ministers from making such untrue, false and irresponsible statements as have been made in this regard."

5 killed, 2 injured as two-storey building collapses in Amravati

Press Trust of India
NAGPUR

Amravati Municipal Corporation had issued a notice for the demolition of the building in July

Five persons were killed and two were seriously injured after a dilapidated three-storey building collapsed in Amravati city of Maharashtra on Sunday, a senior police official said.

The incident occurred around 2 p.m., the official said. "The building located in Prabhat Chowk area of the city collapsed, killing five persons and injuring two others," Amravati Police Commissioner Arti Singh said.

A civic official said the Amravati Municipal Corporation (AMC) had issued a notice for the demolition of the building in July this year as it had become old and dilapidated. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed grief over the incident and announced on Twitter that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has decided to provide a financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to the families of each of the deceased from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The Divisional Commissioner has been instructed to conduct an inquiry into the incident, Mr. Fadnavis tweeted.

Consumer court orders realty firm to give refund

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Consumer Court has ordered Godrej Projects Development Limited to refund with interest the total amount paid by the buyer of a unit at the Godrej Summit residential complex in Sector 104, Gurgaon due to deficiency in services.

The court ruled that home buyer Rajiv Singhal was justified in seeking refund of his deposits.

Mr. Singhal, represented by advocates Piyush Singh and Aditya Parolia, stated that he had booked a unit in the project in March 2014 and paid a sum of over ₹51.26 lakh.

APPEAL

I am Kajandran aged 18 years, suffering from Relapsed Rhabdomyosarcoma and require Chemotherapy, Surgery & Radiationtherapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.8,00,000/-. Please donate and support me as my family is extremely poor and cannot afford this huge cost. I need your blessings. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

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Kajandran

Rahul Gandhi

‘Congress will bring back old pension scheme’

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress will provide fixed jobs for contractual workers, bring back the old pension scheme (OPS) and ensure timely promotions if the party comes to power in Gujarat, former party chief Rahul Gandhi said.

In a tweet in Hindi, Mr. Gandhi said, “Implemented it in Rajasthan, now employees will get their due as soon as Congress government is formed in Gujarat.”

BJP holds simultaneous rallies in all 68 constituencies of Himachal

Chief Minister Thakur says people have made up their mind to put the party back in power for another term; BJP president J.P. Nadda says AAP left H.P. and went to Gujarat as people of the State know about its disappointing performance

The Hindu Bureau
SHIMLA

BJP president J.P. Nadda, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal addressed series of rallies. PTI

Stepping up its campaign ahead of the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh, slated for November 12, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Sunday held simultaneous rallies in all 68 constituencies under its “Vijay Sankalp” campaign.

BJP president J.P. Nadda, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal and others addressed the series of rallies.

Addressing a rally in Nurpur, Mr. Thakur said people had made up their mind to put the party back in power for another term.

“This time, the people of the State have made up their mind to change the *rivaz* [tradition] of alternate governments after every five years,” he said.

Pointing out that the BJP had done immense work to protect the interests of government employees, Mr. Thakur said, “Only the BJP can solve the issue of the Old Pension Scheme. The Congress is working to mislead people only for political gains on the issue.”

The Chief Minister said that despite the difficult conditions during his tenure of five years amid the COVID-19 pandemic, he worked sincerely for all the segments of society, especially the poor people. “We have delivered tap water house-to-house and waived water bills. The Congress, during its regime, could not provide employment to even 5,000 people, but our government gave jobs to more than 60,000 people,” he said.

Addressing a rally at Kaza in Lahaul Spiti, Mr. Nadda said that earlier there used to be anti-incumbency in politics and elections, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi had added the concept of pro-incumbency in the politics of India.

“When there is the right leadership, a policy of development, an intention to work, then there is no anti-incumbency but pro-incumbency. And hence people are all set to bring the BJP back to power,” he said.

Slams AAP

Hitting out at the Aam Aadmi Party, Mr. Nadda said, “The AAP came here in the name of political tourism but now they have left Himachal Pradesh and gone to Gujarat because Himachal Pradesh is close to Delhi and Punjab, and people here have got all information about its disappointing performance.”

INBRIEF

Why is Gujarat govt. setting up UCC panel, asks Kejriwal

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday questioned the intention of the BJP government in poll-bound Gujarat to constitute a committee to implement the Uniform Civil Code and said if the BJP wants to do so, the party should do it across the country. Mr. Kejriwal asked if the Union government was waiting for the Lok Sabha election to make a move in this direction. PTI

‘Discussing uniform civil code shows BJP’s bad condition’

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president and former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati on October 30 attacked the BJP after the Gujarat government announced that it would constitute a committee under a retired High Court judge to study aspects for implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). Ms. Mayawati claimed that the issue has been raised before the Assembly polls as the BJP’s condition in Gujarat is not good.

Two prominent Patidar leaders join AAP in Gujarat

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

In a major boost ahead of the Assembly election, two prominent leaders of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) that spearheaded the Patidar quota agitation in the State in 2015 – Alpesh Kathiriya and Dharmik Malaviya – joined the Aam Aadmi Party in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart, Bhagwant Mann, in Gariadhar of Bhavnagar district on Sunday.

In jail for 14 months

Both Mr. Kathiriya and Mr. Malaviya are conveners of the PAAS and are based in Surat. Mr. Kathiriya was the main face of the PAAS in Surat and was jailed by the State Police. He faced as many as 22 cases, including of sedition, and had been in jail for 14 months before he was granted bail.

Besides being the co-convener of the PAAS, Mr. Malaviya is the president of the Surat unit of the Khodaldham Trust, the influential Patidar social religious outfit in the State.

Moreover, a leading OBC leader, Raju Solanki, from Bhavnagar and a few local Congress leaders and workers also joined the AAP on Sunday.

“All of us will have to come forward in this struggle for the community, for our pride, for the nation, for better education, health and corruption-free good governance. Your support is required,” Mr. Kathiriya said in his address at the election rally following his induction into the AAP.

After inducting him and others, Mr Kejriwal said, “I welcome Kathiriya and Malaviya in Aam Aadmi Party. Both are youth leaders, and the future of India is in the hands of youth. They are struggling leaders who fought a long battle for the rights of youths and went to jail.”

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32nd ANNIVERSARY

Pranams at the lotus feet
of my beloved Guru
Padma Bhushan awardee, Sangita Kalanidhi
Dr. M.L. VASANTHAKUMARI
Smt. **SUDHA RAGUNATHAN**

Adampur byelection: a contest on Bhajan Lal family’s home turf

Ashok Kumar
GURUGRAM

BJP candidate Bhavya Bishnoi addresses a gathering during his campaign in the Adampur Assembly byelection. PTI

Being fought on the home turf of the family of the late Bhajan Lal, former Chief Minister, the byelection in the Adampur Assembly constituency in Hisar, Haryana, is about whether one of the most prominent political families in the State can hold on to its five-decade-old bastion or not.

The Assembly constituency, held by Bhajan Lal for over three decades since 1968, and later by his son Kuldeep Bishnoi and daughter-in-law Renuka, now has his grandson Bhavya fielded by the Bharatiya Janata Party as a joint coalition candidate. The election was necessitated by the resignation of Mr. Bhavya’s father, Mr. Bishnoi, as Adampur MLA, after he quit the Congress to join the BJP.

Though the outcome of the byelection will be of little consequence in terms of the composition of the State Assembly, the result could have a bearing on the future prospects of the new entrant Aam Aadmi Party, and the State politics, say political analysts.

For the AAP, which sees the byelection as a “gateway to Haryana”, the result could make or mar its future prospects in the State.

Congress candidate Jai Prakash is pitched against his own party rebels with all three major rival political parties fielding turncoats. While Mr. Bhavya contested the Hisar Lok Sabha election in 2019 on Congress ticket, Satinder Singh of the AAP was the Congress candidate for Adampur in 2014.

Led by former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and his son Deepender Hooda, Rajya Sabha member, the Congress has been seeking votes against the “misrule” and “anti-people” policies of the BJP-JJP government, besides targeting Mr. Bishnoi for “cheating” the people by switching loyalties for his personal gains.

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Rahul proved his leadership abilities, says Shatrughan

Press Trust of India
KOLKATA

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has proved his leadership abilities through the Bharat Jodo Yatra, Trinamool Congress MP Shatrughan Sinha said.

Mr. Sinha said Mr. Gandhi’s march would help the Congress double its tally in the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Claiming that West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee would be “game-changer” in 2024, Mr. Sinha said relations between the Trinamool Congress and the Congress would improve.

Will campaign for BJP in byelections to two seats in Bihar, says Chirag Paswan

Press Trust of India
PATNA

Chirag Paswan

In a shot in the arm for the BJP in Bihar, Chirag Paswan on Sunday cast aside his ambivalence and announced that he would campaign for the saffron party in the byelections in two Assembly constituencies in the State.

Mr. Paswan, who heads a splinter group of the Lok Janshakti Party founded by his father Ram Vilas Paswan, was speaking to presspersons at the airport here.

The 39-year-old MP for Jamui said, “Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) will campaign for the BJP in the byelections in Mokama and Gopalganj. The decision has been taken after a long meeting on Saturday night with Union Home Minister Amit Shah with whom I have been in touch for quite some time.”

“I am right now speaking only about the byelections for Mokama and Gopalganj. It took a long time for us to arrive at a decision. Only two days are left before the campaign comes to an end. Our party will do its best to ensure the victory of the BJP candidates in the elections,” Mr. Paswan said.

INBRIEF

Tunnel landslip in Jammu: three more bodies recovered

The death toll in the landslip that hit an under-construction tunnel of a power project in Jammu increased to four on Sunday, as three more bodies were recovered from the debris. At least six were rescued with injuries. The landslip hit the Ratle hydel project in Drabshalla on Saturday during excavation of a tunnel. The Army, State Disaster Response Force and police have jointly carried out the rescue operation.

Four killed, 18 injured as oil tanker explodes in Mizoram

At least four people were killed and 18 injured after an oil tanker exploded in Aizawl district of Mizoram. The incident happened on Saturday night near the Tuirial airfield, the police said on Sunday. Aizawl district Superintendent of Police, C. Lalruaia said the Champhai-bound oil tanker was carrying more than 20,000 litres of petrol when it overturned on the road. "Local people, including the victims, immediately after the accident, were trying to collect the petrol leaking from the tanker when it caught fire," Mr. Lalruaia said.

India now enables low-cost production, high output: PM

After laying the foundation stone for a C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Modi says defence and aerospace sectors will be two important pillars for a self-reliant India

Dinakar Peri
VADODARA

India maintained its growth momentum despite the pandemic, war, and supply-chain disruptions, and the country is presenting opportunities for low-cost manufacturing and high output, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday after laying the foundation stone for a C-295 transport aircraft manufacturing facility to be set up by a consortium of Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. (TASL) and Airbus Defence and Space in Vadodara.

The event comes just before the announcement of the Assembly election in Gujarat.

"In the coming years, the defence and aerospace sectors will be two important pillars for making India *aatmanirbhar* (self-reliant). We have a goal of exceeding $25 billion in defence manufacturing by 2025. Besides, our defence exports would be more than $5 billion," Mr. Modi said.

Onwards and upwards: Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone laying ceremony in Vadodara on Sunday. PTI

In September 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a ₹21,935-crore deal with Airbus Defence and Space, Spain for the procurement of 56 C-295MW aircraft. This is the first project in which military aircraft will be manufactured in India by the private sector under technology transfer.

The Prime Minister termed the C-295 project a big step in the direction of making India the manufacturing hub of the world.

"India is moving forward with the mantra of 'Make in India, Make for the Globe'. Today our policies are stable, predictable and futuristic," Mr. Modi said.

N. Chandrasekaran, chairman of Tata Sons, said, "With the set-up of the final assembly line in Vadodara, the Tata Group will now be able to take aluminium ingots at one end of the value stream and turn it into an Airbus C295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force."

Of the 56 aircraft, 16 will come in fly-away condition between September 2023 and August 2025. The first of 40 "Made in India" aircraft is expected in September 2026 and the project will be completed by 2031.

Guillaume Faury, chief executive officer of Airbus, said its teams were committed to supporting the IAF's modernisation. The C-295 programme would contribute to the development of the private defence manufacturing sector.

The C-295 will replace the Avro transport aircraft of the IAF. The aircraft, which has achieved more than 5,00,000 flight hours in 34 countries, is used for tactical transport of up to 71 passengers or 50 paratroopers, and for logistic operations to locations inaccessible to heavier aircraft.

OneWeb satellites will enhance rural connectivity: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The PM says that opening up space sector for the youth has brought in a revolution

Describing the simultaneous placement of 36 OneWeb satellites into orbit a week ago as a major feat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the move would strengthen digital connectivity across the country.

In his *Mann Ki Baat* address, Mr. Modi said, "With the help of this, even the remotest areas will be more easily connected with the rest of the country."

The Prime Minister said that after the opening up of the space sector, revolutionary changes had started coming into it. Domestic industries and start-ups were bringing innovations and new technologies. Non-governmental companies were getting the facility to launch their payloads and satellites through IN-SPACe, he said.

Stating that today's youth had been exhibiting immense problem-solving skills, Mr. Modi noted that on October 14 and 15, all 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) came together to showcase their innovations and projects. Over 75 best projects on themes such as healthcare, agriculture, robotics and semiconductors to 5G communications were on display.

Mr. Modi spoke about a farmer from Kancheepuram who benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Kusum Yojana and had a solar pump set installed in his farm.

A team of tribal women in Anaikatti, Coimbatore, had crafted 10,000 eco-friendly terracotta teacups for export. "...some villages of Tripura have ascended to the level of Bio-Village 2. Bio-Village 2 emphasises how to minimise the damage caused by natural disasters," Mr. Modi said.

Worshipping the sun

Holy day: Devotees offer prayers during the Chhath Puja on the banks of the Brahmaputra in Guwahati on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

'Dolphins return to the Ganga in U.P.'

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

Dolphins have started coming back to the Ganga with improvement in the quality of the river water made possible by the Namami Gange programme, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Sunday. The government said that with the completion of 23 projects under the programme started in 2014, the State had stopped the flow of more than 460 MLD (million litres a day) of sewage into the Ganga.

"Under the programme, additional treatment capacity of about 33 MLD will also be created between September 2022 and December 2022 in Jhansi, Kanpur, Unnao, Shuklaganj, Sultanpur Budhana, Jaunpur and Baghpat at the cost of ₹2304.55 crore," the government said.

Dolphins have been breeding in Brijghat, Narora, Kanpur, Mirzapur and Varanasi, which is likely to increase their number. The present dolphin population in the Ganga in the State is estimated at 600.

Read | The day of the dolphin
bit.ly/3SSe4tT

Opposition corners Shinde govt. as 'flight' of mega projects continues

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

After the loss of the Tata-Airbus military aircraft project to neighbouring Gujarat, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi on Sunday cornered the Maharashtra government over reports that French multinational company Safran, which manufactures aircraft and rocket engines, was locating its aircraft engine repair and maintenance project in Hyderabad and not Nagpur.

Shiv Sena MP Arvind Sawant, a key member of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena faction known as the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), demanded Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's resignation.

Mr. Sawant said that Safran's aircraft engine repair and maintenance project was to come up in Nagpur's Multi-modal International Cargo Hub and Airport (MIHAN), but had shifted to Hyderabad owing to administrative delays including in land acquisition.

"The Safran project had a preliminary investment of ₹1,185 crore and could have helped provide hundreds of jobs. Despite MIHAN having a conducive atmosphere for businesses, how is it that these mega projects are moving out from there? It is especially surprising given that Air India already has an ongoing project involving the maintenance and overhauling of aircraft... this proves that the Shinde-Fadnavis government does not have the capability to administer the State. The CM must resign immediately in order to let Maharashtra move forward," said Mr. Sawant, terming the scenario "extremely serious".

> Instead of pointing fingers, it is high time the government thought about how to get future investments in the State
>
> **SUPRIYA SULE**
> Nationalist Congress Party MP for Baramati

He said the much-touted "double engine growth" being propagated by the BJP had come a cropper in Maharashtra s one of the engines was "punctured".

Urging the ruling Balasahebanchi Sena (Shinde faction)-BJP alliance to stop finger-pointing over the loss of big-ticket projects and begin thinking in a statesmanlike manner for Maharashtra's progress, Supriya Sule, MP and Nationalist Congress Party leader, said Mr. Shinde should call an all-party meeting to discuss the flight of industries.

"There are contradictory statements emanating from the State Industries Minister [Uday Samant] and the Chief Minister himself each time that the State is losing such a project. Instead of pointing a finger, it is high time the government thought about how to get future investments in the State. This is not a personal matter but Maharashtra's development is at stake," she said.

On Saturday, to counter the Opposition, Industries Minister Uday Samant said Maharashtra had received investments of ₹25,368 crore for 10 projects since the Shinde-Fadnavis government came to power in June. The Minister said these projects were expected to generate employment for 7,430 people. The government would release a White Paper, he added.

However, Ms. Sule denied Mr. Samant's claims, pointing out that all these projects claimed by the Shinde-Fadnavis government were in fact the work of the MVA government.

Following the "loss" of the Safran project, Uddhav camp leader Aaditya Thackeray, in a tweet, said investors had lost all faith in the State's political stability.

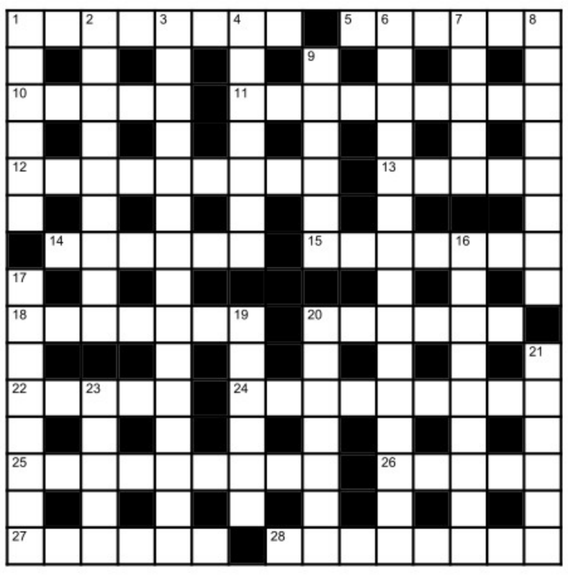
Congress leader Balasaheb Thorat chastised the government for its failure to retain investment.

TH CROSSWORD + 13698

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 A despicable person consuming ecstasy and heroin in bar (8)
5 Universal drive to tackle onset of rampant surge (6)
10 Royal shot in the arm, beheaded in bed (5)
11 Scrap between advocate and defamer (9)
12 Following kiss, female removes thongs (4-5)
13 Relaxed, entertained by model discreetly in retreat (5)
14 Woman with sex appeal, most athletic in addition (6)
15 Mean associate with bad temper is railing (7)
18 Buzz on starting to drink liquor, commonplace (7)
20 Fellow controlling sect caught leaving city in Pakistan (6)
22 Honest head of co-operative bank (5)
24 It stabilises mood in stress or tension (9)
25 Knowledge of training routine keeps daughter fit essentially (9)
26 Chemical compound in Botox identified (5)
27 Extremely small worm in toboggan (6)
28 Frozen layer in Italian sandwiches, cheese perhaps (3,5)

Down

1 Insecure director involved in a fight (6)
2 Sexual excitement caused by isometric exercises (9)
3 No longer in contention, having left management? (3,2,3,7)
4 Vehicle overturned, primarily spilling fuel in layer below surface (7)
6 Circulating pic or bulletin as promotion (6,9)
7 Posh model beset by love before (5)
8 Man tried altering chromosome in genetic make-up (8)
9 Misbehaves in Thailand, abandoning discretion on drink (4,2)
16 Open relationship keeps lover essentially unhappy (9)
17 Passes across hotel in woods (8)
19 Weirdo in film, confining female on island (6)
20 Insane spread of Omicron (7)
21 Sinister criminal is isolated in enclosure (6)
23 Weep as old guy drops dead (5)

SUDOKU

				2	5			7
5		9	8			2		
	8							6
	2	7						
		5	2		4	3		
						8	5	
2							3	
		4			2	6		1
7			6	3				

No.SS5604 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	1	8	6	4	5	9	3	7
3	5	7	1	9	2	4	6	8
6	9	4	8	7	3	5	1	2
4	6	2	7	5	1	3	8	9
8	7	5	9	3	4	6	2	1
1	3	9	2	6	8	7	5	4
7	8	6	5	1	9	2	4	3
9	4	1	3	2	6	8	7	5
5	2	3	4	8	7	1	9	6

FAITH

Sita's determination

Realising that Rama is determined to go to the forest, Kausalya finally agrees to let Him go, and blesses Him. Garuda was successful in his mission to get nectar, and before he set off to accomplish this, he was blessed by his mother Vinata. Kausalya recalls this, when she blesses Rama. Rama is now ready to depart, having taken His mother's blessings. But one hurdle still remains. He has to convince Sita. When Rama enters Sita's palace, His anxiety shows on His face, said Navalpakkam Vasudevachariar, in a discourse. A man's wife has a special place in his life, for he cannot do a yaga or homa without her. So, naturally, Rama, who has so far not shown His emotions, is anxious about Sita's reaction. How can He tell Her that He will be leaving Her soon?

Sita sees how dejected Rama looks and asks Him what troubles Him. He tells Sita that Bharatha is to be made king and that He has been asked to go to forest. He advises Sita that She should not praise Him (Rama) in Bharatha's presence, for those in power do not relish praise of others. He tells Her that She must serve Dasaratha and Kausalya in His absence. He also adds that all of Dasaratha's three wives are like mothers to Him. Sita replies that a wife shares her husband's lot in life. Sastras say a wife and husband share each other's punyas and papas. And if Rama is exiled it automatically means She too is, even though this might not have been specifically commanded. The ground in forests will have thorns which will hurt Rama's feet. Sita says She will clear the thorns so that His feet are not hurt. She will not be put off by the presence of dangerous animals. Being with one's husband even in a humble place is preferable to dwelling alone in a palace, She says.

ASKUS

Bhavana Acharya

Q I have been running a monthly SIP of ₹10,000 towards SBI Nifty Index fund for the past year. Now, I can invest another ₹10,000 a month. Should I invest in another moderate risk fund or continue with the Nifty fund alone? Should I also invest as lump sum instead as it lets me invest on a date of my choice, preferably when the NAV is lesser?
DR. SRIJITH

A For a ₹20,000 monthly SIP, just 2 funds are too few. It is best to split the additional ₹10,000 in two funds. If you do not have other debt investments, make one of these funds a short-term debt fund. As the passive options in the moderate-risk space is limited, go for an active fund from the large, flexicap or value categories. If you can take some more risk, you can instead add an aggressive index fund that tracks the Nifty 500 or the Nifty Midcap 150. You can go up to ₹4,000 in these funds. It is best to use the SIP route to invest. Market highs and lows are clear only in hindsight. Markets can keep rising, or keep correcting through the month. Pegging a 'good' or 'low' NAV to invest on is not feasible.

Q I'm a 28-year-old State government employee. What are the best options for investment?
DIVYA R.N.

A It's hard to answer this without more detail, so here are some general guidelines.
One, consider the purpose for which you intend to invest – such as for a home down payment, buying a car, retirement, or for regular income from the investment. Two, keep in mind the extent of risk you can bear. Generally speaking, for investment horizons of 5 years and longer, opt primarily for equity mutual funds as they allow better returns than FDs or gold. The higher the risk and longer the time-frame, the more you can allocate to equity funds (but don't go beyond 80% in these). The rest of the allocation can be in short-duration or corporate bond debt funds.
For shorter-term goals, fixed deposits from banks and small finance banks are good options, especially if you are in the lower tax brackets. You can also consider very short-term debt mutual funds. For retirement, products such as EPF are good. Given that you are a State-government employee, you may be eligible for other pension or medical benefits so do bear that in mind.

Q I am a senior citizen. Encouraged by the higher interest I received on an FD parked in a NBFC rated FAAA/ Stable by CRISIL and MAA+ with Stable outlook by ICRA, I intend to invest ₹10 lakh as a cumulative deposit in this NBFC for 3 years. Do you think I would be acting wisely? Also, is there a free-look period for deposits in NBFCs too?
ASHOK WARRIER

A There is not much we can say without knowing the NBFC or the coupon on the deposit. Take a call based on two factors – one, whether the coupon compares favourably with similar-rated NBFCs, small finance banks, banks or even central and State government bonds, which are sporting good yields now. If so, you can invest. Two, how much does this ₹10 lakh account for in your overall investment? A higher share is avoidable. In such a case, invest partially in the deposit if the interest compares well and invest the remaining in another option. There is no free-look period in deposits.
(The adviser is Co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

More ways to lock into attractive rates now

One needs to look beyond the traditional FDs to earn better. And this is where government securities, treasury bills and State Development Loans auctioned by the RBI come into play

Vidya Bala

After two tough years for fixed income investors, interest rates are beginning to look up. But this time around, you need to look beyond the traditional fixed deposits (FDs) to gain more. And here's how:

Core investment
Deposits should certainly form part of your core fixed income portfolio, whether you want regular income or just want low risk options that will compound. The ₹5 lakh insurance deposit insurance along with a mechanism for faster resolution (refund within 90 days of moratorium) now gives confidence for you to look at slightly higher earning options in small finance banks (SFBs), beyond the top tier banks.

Interest rates as high as 7.4-7.7% for less than 18-month deposits are not uncommon in such banks. And with top tier banks such as SBI also increasing rates to closer to 7%, those can still be part of your core investment to lend safety.

But here's the catch. Long-term bank deposits don't necessarily come with higher interest rates. Clearly, banks do not want to lock into higher rates to repay you, even if you wish you could! Hence come the other alternatives.

Sovereign guarantee
For senior citizens, options such as the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme remain among the superior income generating schemes with capital guarantee. For others, the RBI Floating Rate Savings Bond also remains a good option to gain regular income.

But there are other options beyond this that are missed. This comes from G-Secs (government securities), treasury bills and State Development Loans (SDLs) auctioned on behalf of the government by the RBI.

Based on the government's borrowing calendar, these issuances are available almost every week and sometimes more than once a week. They are best done through the RBI retail direct platform in which you can open a fully online account for free and transact for free.

Treasury bills are mighty useful when it comes to investing in less than 1-year period with 100% safety. Most deposits and savings accounts have low rates for 3 months to 1-year duration, with rates ranging from 4.5% to 5.5%. But treasury bills come in at 6.36-6.92% (auction as of October 22, 2022) for 3 month-1-year periods.

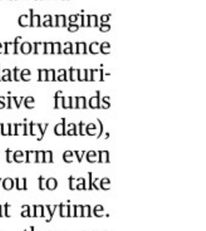
When it comes to medium duration – SDLs offer great rates between 3-7 years (yields of issuances ranged from 7.46-7.72% as of October 22, 2022).

While individual states may have varying degrees of credit worthiness, the repayment is done by RBI and therefore you can assume that there is safety in your capital. These instruments carry half-yearly interest pay outs and are ideal as buy-and-hold instruments. While they can be sold in the secondary market, not all of them will have sufficient liquidity.

And of course, for 5-10-year periods, G-Secs or gilts as they are called, offer good rates between 7.43-7.5% (as of October 22, 2022). While you might think this is lower than what some banks offer, remember that banks offer such rates for shorter periods while these government instruments allow you to lock into current high rates for longer periods. G-Secs and SDLs carry sovereign guarantee with the option of liquidating ahead in the market, if you wish to.

In all these instruments, you need to understand that the coupon rate (interest mentioned) is not the primary return metric to look at. The yield (which will be indicated on the portal and will be confirmed once you get allotment) is important. Yield is nothing but the interest income you get divided by the price at which you buy. That is the real return you gain.

Growth options
The options mentioned earlier generate income for you. When it comes to growing capital, mutual funds can help. Passive debt fund options free you from the hassle of looking for a good fund manager or changing funds when performance suffers. Target date maturity funds (passive funds with a fixed maturity date), provide a fixed term even as they allow you to take your money out anytime. In other words, they are open ended and have no lock-in unlike a fixed maturity plan (FMP).



They come in the form of ETFs, fund of funds and index funds. These mostly invest in SDLs, G-Secs, AAA-rated PSU instruments or a combination of these. They too allow you to play the 2-10-year time frame. This option provides good opportunity to lock into current yields – ranging from 7.25% to 7.7% (again, as of October 22) for periods ranging from 6 months to 10 years.

Whether you wish to generate income or lock into attractive rates, this may be the time to do it!

(The writer is Co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	7.50	5.85	7.50	6.95
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.50	6.50	6.35
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.10	7.40	6.75
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.75	6.75	7.00	7.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.55	7.00	7.55	7.25
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	7.00	7.00	6.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.75	7.15	7.50	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	6.20	6.10	6.10	6.10
Bandhan Bank	7.00	7.00	7.00	5.60
CSB Bank	7.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	6.50	6.00	6.25	6.25
DCB Bank	7.50	6.10	7.50	7.25
HDFC Bank	6.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
ICICI Bank	6.20	5.80	6.00	6.20
IDFC First Bank	7.25	6.25	6.50	6.50
IndusInd Bank	7.00	6.25	6.75	6.75
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	6.25	6.25	5.75	6.00
Karnataka Bank	6.40	6.40	5.75	5.75
Karur Vysya Bank	6.50	6.30	6.10	6.10
Kotak Mahindra Bank	6.20	6.00	6.10	6.10
Nainital Bank	6.25	5.75	5.60	5.75
RBL Bank	7.25	6.50	6.55	6.55
SBM Bank India	7.70	6.40	6.40	6.15
South Indian Bank	7.00	6.40	5.90	6.00
TMB	5.75	5.50	5.75	5.75
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	6.00	5.50	5.55	5.65
Bank of India	6.05	5.50	6.00	5.75
Bank of Maharashtra	5.70	5.40	5.50	5.50
Canara Bank	7.00	6.50	6.50	7.00
Indian Bank	6.10	5.50	5.75	5.65
Indian Overseas Bank	6.00	5.70	5.85	5.85
Punjab National Bank	7.00	6.30	6.25	6.10
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.80	5.65	5.75	5.75
State Bank of India	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.10
Union Bank of India	6.00	5.50	5.55	5.65
Foreign Banks				
Citibank	6.75	6.75	3.50	3.50
Deutsche Bank	7.25	6.25	7.00	7.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.40-9.15	8.40-9.05	8.40-9.05
Bank of Baroda	8.45-9.95	8.45-9.95	8.45-10.20
Union Bank of India	8.25-10.15	8.25-10.35	8.25-10.35
Punjab National Bank	8.25 - 9.00	8.20 - 8.90	8.20 - 8.90
Bank of India	8.30-10.25	8.30-10.25	8.30-10.25
Canara Bank	8.55-13.35	8.55-13.35	8.55-13.35
UCO Bank	8.40-8.60	8.40-8.60	8.40-8.60
Bank of Maharashtra	8.00-10.20	8.00-10.35	8.00-10.45
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85-10.35	8.00 onwards	8.00 onwards
Public Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.30 onwards	8.30 onwards	8.30 onwards
ICICI Bank	7.10-9.50	7.10-9.50	7.10-9.50
Axis Bank	8.60-12.70	8.60-12.70	8.60-9.05
HSBC Bank	8.35-9.20	8.35-9.20	8.35-9.20
South Indian Bank	9.25-12.00	9.25-12.00	9.25-12.00
Karur Vysya Bank	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Karnataka Bank	8.24-9.49	8.24-9.49	8.24-9.59
Federal Bank	8.37-9.60	8.37-9.65	8.37-9.70
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.00-10.15	9.00-10.15	9.00-10.15
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.30	8.30	8.30
Bandhan Bank	8.30-14.00	8.30-13.65	8.30-13.65
RBL Bank	11.30-13.00	9.70-10.10	9.70-10.00
CSB Bank	9.69	9.69	9.94
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.20	8.00-10.40
HDFC Ltd.	8.40-10.00	8.40-10.25	8.40-10.35
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.20 onwards	8.20 onwards	8.20 onwards
Tata Capital	>=8.60	>=8.60	>=8.60
PNB Housing Finance	8.25-12.50	8.25-12.50	8.35-11.70
GIC Housing Finance	>=8.10	>=8.10	>=8.10
Repco Home Finance	>=8.30	>=8.30	>=8.30
Indiabulls Housing	>=8.95	>=8.95	>=8.95
Aditya Birla Capital	8.50-13.50	8.50-13.50	8.50-13.50
ICICI Home Finance	>=9.20	>=9.20	>=9.20
Godrej Housing Finance	8.39-10.99	8.39-10.99	8.39-10.99
Home First Finance	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00	8.00-18.00

Rates as on October 27

Source:Paisabazaar.com

Enhancing cash returns

THINK INVESTOR

Your money in fixed deposits will earn higher interest till the time you reverse-sweep. Sweep accounts can also be used by all individuals for parking their contingency reserve funds

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

You must channel your monthly savings into investment products to earn the required return to achieve your life goals. Sometimes, individuals keep a significant proportion of their savings in bank accounts. In this article, we will discuss whether such savings can earn higher returns, considering individuals' desire for greater liquidity. Individuals who are insecure about their finances continually need high liquidity.

Often, such insecurity is a function of the volatility of their income streams – lack of permanent job or a significant proportion of income in variable pay. The issue with keeping money in savings account is that returns are significantly lower than inflation. Such liquidity-seeking individuals should consider keeping their savings in sweep accounts. These are savings account offered by most banks. The amount above the minimum balance required for this type of savings account will be automatically transferred to a fixed deposit earning higher interest.

Suppose this savings account requires a minimum balance of ₹25,000. If you have ₹75,000 in your account, the bank will automatically transfer ₹50,000 to a fixed deposit. If you to have to spend, say, ₹40,000, the bank will automatically transfer (reverse sweep) the required amount from the fixed deposit to the savings account to meet your expenses. Importantly, your money in the fixed deposit will earn higher interest till the time you reverse-sweep. Sweep accounts can also be used by all individuals for parking their contingency reserve funds.

Contingency reserves are meant to provide liquidity to meet unforeseen expenses such as medical emergencies and temporary loss of income. In the absence of inflation-protection products to park the amount, a contingency reserve fund must, at the minimum, protect the nominal value of the fund. Hence a sweep account that offers liquidity, protects nominal capital as there is no market risk, and earns higher returns than savings account.

You must check the associated fees and penalty a bank will charge when your savings account falls below the minimum balance. Note that the interest income is taxable at your marginal tax rate. It may not be worthwhile to link a sweep account with your trading account. The idea that you must earn higher returns on the proceeds from sale of shares till you reinvest the amount is not justified if you consider the capital locked up in loss-making stocks in your demat account. You could consider liquid funds instead.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

WILMINGTON

President Joe Biden votes in U.S. midterm elections

President Joe Biden puts an 'I Voted' sticker on his granddaughter, Natalie Biden, after they voted during early voting for the November 8 U.S. midterm elections at a polling station in Wilmington, Delaware, on Saturday. Mr. Biden plans to step up his campaign travels with trips to Pennsylvania, Florida, New Mexico and Maryland. AP

BEIRUT

Lebanon President leaves with no replacement, crisis deepens

Lebanon's President Michel Aoun delivers a speech to mark the end of his mandate, outside the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, on Sunday. Reeling from an economic meltdown, Lebanon faces the prospect of its multi-faceted crisis deepening further as Mr. Aoun ends his six-year term without a replacement. AFP

MOGADISHU

Death toll from Somalia twin bombings climbs to 100

Wreckages of vehicles seen along K5 street in Mogadishu, Somalia, on Sunday. The number of people killed in Saturday's twin car bombings, claimed by Al-Shabaab Islamists, has risen to 100, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud said on Sunday. At least 300 people were injured in the attack, he said. REUTERS

OMDURMAN

Sudan police fire tear gas as thousands protest military rule

Sudanese anti-coup demonstrators march in a street in the capital's twin city of Omdurman on Sunday. Security forces fired tear gas as thousands of demonstrators took to the streets of the Sudanese capital of Khartoum demanding a return to civilian rule. Tear gas was also fired in Omdurman and in north Khartoum. AFP

Lula or Bolsonaro? Brazil votes in tense showdown

The leftist former President narrowly won the first-round election on October 2 as the right-wing incumbent performed better than expected; divisive campaign has deeply polarised the nation

Agence France-Presse
RIO DE JANEIRO

Close contest: Brazilian President and re-election candidate Jair Bolsonaro waves at supporters after voting in the presidential run-off election in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday. AFP

Brazil was on a knife-edge on Sunday as voters chose between far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro and his leftist arch-rival, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in a presidential election seen as too close to call.

Both candidates cast their ballots in the morning, expressing confidence in victory in the run-off election, after a dirty and divisive campaign that has deeply polarised the nation of 215 million people.

Some Brazilians voted with gusto, while others merely picked the candidate they least disliked.

"I think this has been the best government Brazil has ever had," said Afro-Brazilian lawyer Eliane de Oliveira, 61, who voted for Mr. Bolsonaro in Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana neighbourhood, saying he was happy to have a government "that is not corrupt", in a dig at the graft-tainted Mr. Lula. Standing nearby, physical education teacher Gustavo Souza voted for Mr. Lula, who, he hoped, would "improve the lives of many people".

Like many he is nervous about the outcome, reflecting fears that Mr. Bolsonaro would not accept the result after months of attacking the electoral system. "I admit I am a little scared about the result today. People have become so radical," he said, laughing nervously.

Mr. Lula, 77, narrowly won the first-round election on October 2, and enters the finale the slight favourite with 52% of voter support, according to a final poll from the Datafolha Institute on Saturday.

However, Mr. Bolsonaro, 67, who scored 48% in the poll, performed better than expected last time around, and the result this time is anyone's guess.

Confident in victory

The President cast his ballot wearing a T-shirt in the yellow-and-green of the Brazilian flag – a symbol he has adopted as his own. "God willing, we'll be victorious later today. Or even better, Brazil will be victorious," said the ex-Army captain, grinning as he greeted supporters in Rio de Janeiro's Vila Militar neighbourhood.

Mr. Lula voted in Sao Bernardo do Campo, the southeastern city where he got his start as a union leader, saying he was "confident in the victory of democracy", and that he would seek to "restore peace" in a divided nation if elected.

Months of mudslinging

The electoral showdown caps months of mud-slinging and personal attacks, in a campaign plagued by disinformation.

Mr. Lula's camp has called Mr. Bolsonaro a "cannibal", "paedophile" and "little dictator". In turn, the ex-President has repeatedly been derided as a "thief" and accused of making a pact with Satan.

Waiting at his polling station in Sao Paulo, psychologist Marcelo Silveira Curi, 35, said he disliked both candidates but was reluctantly voting for Mr. Lula. "He's not ideal, but he's the option if you oppose this government," he said, criticising "lots of economic and social reversals" under Mr. Bolsonaro.

The election has global ramifications: Conservationists believe the result could seal the fate of the stricken Amazon rainforest, pushed to the brink by fires and deforestation that have surged under Mr. Bolsonaro.

However, for Brazilians, issues of poverty, hunger, corruption and traditional values are top of mind.

One of the main questions hanging over the poll has been if Mr. Bolsonaro – often dubbed the "Tropical Trump" – will accept a loss, after saying the very voting system that brought him to power was riddled with fraud.

On Friday night he pledged to respect the election, though possible accusations of rigging and a backlash from his supporters loom large.

Journalist crushed to death at Imran's march

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

A woman journalist covering former Prime Minister Imran Khan's long march died on Sunday after being crushed under his container, an incident that forced him to halt the march for the day.

The deceased was identified as Sadaf Naeem, a reporter for Channel Five.

The reporter was run over by Mr. Khan's container after she fell from it near Sadhoke. After the incident, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman called off activities for the day.

"We are ending today's march due to an accident. We have decided to stop here," Mr. Khan said. He also sent his condolences to the family of the deceased

The long march would start from Kamoke on its fourth day on Monday. Earlier, it was planned to reach Gujranwala by the end of its third day.

S. Korea in shock as 153 dead in Halloween crowd surge, President promises probe

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
SEOUL

Great loss: A man pays tribute to the victims of the stampede in Seoul, South Korea, on Sunday. AP

Concerned relatives raced to hospitals in search of their loved ones on Sunday as South Korea mourned the deaths of more than 150 people, mostly in their 20s and 30s, who got trapped and crushed after a huge Halloween party crowd surged into a narrow alley in a nightlife district in Seoul.

Witnesses said the crowd surge on Saturday night in the Itaewon area caused "a hell-like" chaos as people fell on each other "like dominoes". An estimated 1,00,000 people had gathered in Itaewon for the country's biggest outdoor Halloween festivities since the pandemic began.

Some people were bleeding from their noses and mouths while being given CPR, witnesses said, while others clad in Halloween costumes continued to sing and dance nearby, possibly without knowing the severity of the situation.

President Yoon Suk-yeol declared a period of national mourning on Sunday, telling the country in a televised address that "a tragedy and disaster occurred that should not have happened".

He said the government "will thoroughly investigate the cause of the incident and make fundamental improvements to ensure the same accident does not occur again in the future".

"My heart is heavy and it is difficult to contain my sorrow," he added, before he visited the scene of the disaster and spoke to emergency workers.

Seoul's Interior Ministry said 153 people had died, including 20 foreigners, in the stampede, which occurred around 10 p.m.

Most of the victims were young women in their 20s, it said, adding that 133 people were injured.

Investigation sought after Truss phone hack claim

Associated Press
LONDON

The British government insisted on Sunday it has robust cybersecurity for government officials, after a newspaper reported that former Prime Minister Liz Truss's phone was hacked while she was U.K. Foreign Minister.

The Mail on Sunday said that the hack was discovered when Ms. Truss was running to become Conservative Party leader and Prime Minister in the summer. It said the security breach was kept secret by then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the head of the civil service.

The newspaper, citing unnamed sources, said Russian spies were suspected of the hack. It said the hackers gained access to sensitive information, including discussions about the Ukraine war with foreign officials, as well as private conversations between Ms. Truss and a political ally, former Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng.

The U.K. government spokesperson declined to comment on security arrangements, but said it had "robust systems in place to protect against cyber threats," including regular security briefings for Ministers.

Questions raised

Opposition parties demanded an independent investigation into the hack, and into the leak of the information to a newspaper.

"Was Liz Truss's phone hacked by Russia, was there a news blackout and if so why?" said Liberal Democrat foreign affairs spokesperson Layla Moran. "If it turns out this information was withheld from the public to protect Liz Truss' leadership bid, that would be unforgivable."

Labour Party law-and-order spokesperson Yvette Cooper said "the story raises issues around cybersecurity."

Sport

Spain emerges World champion yet again

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
NAVI MUMBAI

Unique feat: Spain became the first country to defend its title in the FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Defending champion Spain beat Colombia 1-0 to win the FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup at the D.Y. Patil Stadium on Sunday. A late own goal by Ana Guzman proved the difference between the sides as La Furia Roja became the first country to successfully defend the title.

Colombia, which scored six of its seven goals in the first half en route the final, was aggressive right from kick-off. In the sixth minute, Gabriela Rodriguez almost found the target off a free-kick but was denied by Spain goalkeeper Sofia Fuente, who stuck out her right hand to keep the ball out.

Spain's reply came 16 minutes later when Cristina Libran shot from distance after receiving a pass from Vicky Lopez but it was Colombia custodian Luisa Agudelo's turn to save her side.

After a goalless first half, Kenio Gonzalo's team almost broke the deadlock in the 48th minute when Cristina Libran – after a save initially by Agudelo – shot into the net.

However, after a VAR check by referee Katia Garcia, the goal was disallowed as the replays showed that the ball had come off Libran's hand before her shot.

Spain kept probing at the edge of Colombia's box and was finally rewarded in the 82nd minute. Laia Martret, who had come on after the hour mark, combined with Paula Partido for a foray down the right flank. Martret, after receiving the cross in the centre, tried to smash the ball with her right foot but saw it roll into the net after a touch from Guzman.

In the match for third place, Nigeria defeated Germany 3-2 on penalties after an exciting 3-3 draw in regulation time.

The results: Final: Colombia 0 lost to Spain 1 (Guzman 82-og)
For third place: Nigeria 3 (Opeyemi 20, Bello 48, Etim 63) drew with Germany 3 (Veit 73, Bartz 85, Bender 90). Nigeria won 3-2 on penalties.

Arsenal outguns Forest; Real held

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Nelson... a memorable day. REUTERS

Reiss Nelson was the unlikely hero as Arsenal reclaimed the top spot in the Premier League with a 5-0 thrashing of Nottingham Forest on Sunday.

Nelson was introduced for the first time in the Premier League this season after Bukayo Saka was forced off with an injury just weeks ahead of the World Cup.

Victory lifted Mikel Arteta's men a point above Manchester City at the top of the table.

A below-par Real Madrid dropped points in the title race with a 1-1 draw against Girona on Sunday. A day earlier, Barcelona was on the brink of a draw when Robert Lewandowski found the winner in stoppage time at Valencia.

Reigning champion Real took the lead through Vinicius Junior in the 70th minute but Cristhian Stuani made it 1-1 with a penalty after Marco Asensio handled the ball.

Barcelona's Lewandowski made up for the poor finishing of his teammates when he stretched his right boot to steer a lobbed pass by Raphinha home for the late breakthrough.

Top results: Sunday: Premier League: Arsenal 5 (Martinelli 5, Nelson 49, 52, Partey 57, Odegaard 78) bt Nottingham Forest 0; Manchester United 1 (Rashford 38) bt West Ham 0.
LaLiga: Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 70) drew with Girona 1 (Stuani 80-pen).

Saturday: Premier League: Fulham 0 drew with Everton 0; Liverpool 1 (Salah 14) lost to Leeds 2 (Rodrigo 4, Summerville 89).
LaLiga: Valencia 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Lewandowski 90+3).
Serie A: Inter Milan 3 (De Vrij 20, Barella 44, Correa 73) bt Sampdoria 0.

Hartley gives JFC first win of season

Sports Bureau

Jamshedpur FC secured its first victory of the season, beating NorthEast United 1-0 in the Indian Super League in Jamshedpur on Sunday. Skipper Peter Hartley scored the only goal of the match.

NEUFC kept JFC at bay till the half-hour mark before the latter found the breakthrough via Hartley. Harry Sawyer rose highest to head Wellington Priori's corner towards goal.

His effort landed at the feet of Hartley and the Jamshedpur FC skipper calmly side-footed the ball into the back of the net. That proved to be the only goal of the match.

AGONY

Karthik leaves field clutching his back, medical report awaited

Dinesh Karthik clutched his back and returned to the dressing room just as South Africa was inching close to the target in the T20 World Cup game in Perth on Sunday. Asked for an update on Karthik, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who spoke to the media, said: "He had a back problem... other than that I don't know what the latest update is."

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Could have conducted the chase better, says Pakistan skipper Babar

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam was a relieved man after finally getting a win in the World Cup, but said the batters could have done better while chasing 91 for nine. Pakistan lost four wickets in reaching the target. He said the team could have conducted "the chase better. But a win always gives you confidence."

TENNIS

Gauff and Pegula among the first-timers at WTA Finals

Coco Gauff is one of four women making a singles debut at the season-ending event; only eight qualify. "It is significant that there's a lot of new faces. It shows that the tour is always evolving," Gauff said on Saturday. Her doubles partner, Jessica Pegula, is also participating in the WTA Finals for the first time.

KABADDI

Narender's stunning show powers Thalaivas past Dabang

Tamil Thalaivas continued its resurgence in the PKL, beating Dabang Delhi 49-39 in Pune on Sunday. This was Thalaivas' second successive win. Raider Narender scored 24 points to help the team register a stunning win. Earlier, Bengaluru Bulls rode on Vikash Kandola's Super Raid to pull off a 37-31 win over Jaipur Pink Panthers.

Proteas put a spoke in India's wheel with a controlled chase

Markram and Miller make the most of Indian largesse; Suryakumar dazzles again but support cast proves inadequate

T20 WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

Indian fans trooped into the Optus Stadium wearing layered clothing with jackets and sweaters. It was an extremely cold Sunday and there was no warmth to savour from the field either as India suffered a five-wicket loss to South Africa in a key ICC T20 World Cup Super 12 Group 2 match.

Pursuing India's 133 for nine, a score that rested on Suryakumar's splendid 68, South Africa finished with 137 for five in 19.4 overs.

Arshdeep strikes

In the chase, South Africa needed stability atop the order. But Arshdeep Singh had other ideas and scalped Quinton de Kock and Rilee Rossouw. An edge and an lbw on review meant that India had flipped pressure back onto the opposition.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma clattered a six off Bhuvneshwar but fell trying to tip one from Mohammed Shami over fine-leg. Dinesh Karthik warmed his gloves with that catch and South Africa was 24 for three in 5.4 overs. Aiden Markram and David Miller then hung in together, hustling the runs.

Markram drilled a four off R. Ashwin and later the spinner lapsed into shock when Kohli grassed the batter in the deep. On 35, Markram survived and later a mix-up did not yield a run-out as Rohit Sharma's throw went awry.

Prize scalp: Ngidi, centre, is congratulated by teammates after dismissing Rohit Sharma. AP

The South Africans flourished in the next over that Ashwin bowled with both batters striking a six each. And when Markram made room and punched Arshdeep past cover, the tide had turned.

Hardik Pandya dismissed Markram (52) but by then the batter's 76-run fourth-wicket partnership with Miller (59 n.o.) had done enough for the victors to stay alive.

Earlier, Rohit won the toss and elected to bat after picking Deepak Hooda ahead of Axar Patel. Wayne Parnell bowled a maiden over with K.L. Rahul playing and missing. Meanwhile, Rohit warmed up with a six against Kagiso Rabada and Rahul then joined the act against Parnell.

Rohit flicked Rabada for four and Kohli watched from the dugout with a towel wrapped around his arms as the temperature dipped to 14°C. But he had to step in soon as Rohit perished to Lungi Ngidi with a miscued pull popping back an easy catch.

While Kohli settled into his quick-single routine, Rahul fatally edged Ngidi. Kohli unfurled two fours off Ngidi and just as the crowd regained its voice, he top-edged a pull off Ngidi. Next-man Hooda fell without opening his account and it got worse when Hardik pulled Ngidi and found a diving Rabada at fine-leg. Wobbling at 49 for five, India needed a partnership and Suryakumar and Dinesh Karthik provided a sixth-wicket alliance worth 52 runs.

Special knock

The former scoring the bulk, lashing Anrich Nortje, lofting Keshav Maharaj and depositing Ngidi over fine-leg. A straight-driven four raised his 50, a special knock under pressure and soon Karthik departed.

Suryakumar kept the Indian fires burning, tucking into Maharaj's spin and then doing a tennis-like forehand slap off Rabada. Eventually he succumbed to Parnell and India finished with a score that failed to test South Africa.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

K.L. Rahul c Markram b Ngidi 9 *(14b, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c & b Ngidi 15 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli c Rabada b Ngidi 12 *(11b, 2x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Maharaj b Parnell 68 *(40b, 6x4, 3x6)*, Deepak Hooda c de Kock b Nortje 0 *(3b)*, Hardik Pandya c Rabada b Ngidi 2 *(3b)*, Dinesh Karthik c Rossouw b Parnell 6 *(15b)*, R. Ashwin c Rabada b Parnell 7 *(11b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 4 *(6b)*, Mohammed Shami run out 0 *(2b)*, Arshdeep Singh (not out) 2 *(1b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-1): 8; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 133.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-23 (Rohit, 4.2 overs), 2-26 (Rahul, 4.6), 3-41 (Kohli, 6.5), 4-42 (Hooda, 7.3), 5-49 (Hardik, 8.3), 6-101 (Karthik, 15.1), 7-124 (Ashwin, 18.1), 8-127 (Suryakumar, 18.5), 9-130 (Shami, 19.4).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Parnell 4-1-15-3, Rabada 4-0-26-0, Ngidi 4-0-29-4, Nortje 4-0-23-1, Maharaj 3-0-28-0, Markram 1-0-5-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Quinton de Kock c Rahul b Arshdeep 1 *(3b)*, Temba Bavuma c Karthik b Shami 10 *(15b, 1x6)*, Rilee Rossouw lbw b Arshdeep 0 *(2b)*, Aiden Markram c Suryakumar b Hardik 52 *(41b, 6x4, 1x6)*, David Miller (not out) 59 *(46b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Tristan Stubbs lbw b Ashwin 6 *(6b, 1x4)*, Wayne Parnell (not out) 2 *(5b)*; Extras (b-4, lb-2, w-1): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 19.4 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-3 (de Kock, 1.1), 2-3 (Rossouw, 1.3), 3-24 (Bavuma, 5.4), 4-100 (Markram, 15.4), 5-122 (Stubbs, 17.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 3.4-0-21-0, Arshdeep 4-0-25-2, Shami 4-0-13-1, Hardik 4-0-29-1, Ashwin 4-0-43-1.

Toss: India; **MoM:** Ngidi.
South Africa won by five wickets with two balls to spare.
India's next match: Nov. 2: vs Bangladesh, Adelaide, 1.30 p.m. IST.

Fielding cost us dear: Bhuvneshwar

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PERTH

Fielding errors perhaps cost India the match was the line Bhuvneshwar Kumar adopted at the post-match press-conference here on Sunday.

After India lost to South Africa, the Indian seamer declared that around 140 was a par score at this venue and the team came close to that but some chances were not taken and that may have affected the result.

"I can't really highlight one particular moment but yes a catch being missed, run-outs too, probably affected our chances. But even then we took it to the last over," Bhuvneshwar said, refusing to draw any excuse from the prevailing cold weather.

"It was cold in Melbourne too and we were aware of the conditions. There wasn't much talk about the weather and we tried to stick to our plans."

Meanwhile, Aiden Markram admitted that South Africa had its lucky streak. "We got some chances and the rub of the green went in our favour today, some days it doesn't, so we are grateful. The ball was nipping around a bit and we had to watch carefully and after 10 overs we tried to rush it a bit," he said, adding that targeting R. Ashwin was part of the plan.

Today's match

Australia vs. Ireland

Brisbane, 1.30 p.m. IST

H2H in T20Is

Played **1**

Australia **1** | Ireland **0**

Bangladesh survives last-ball drama

Shayan Acharya
BRISBANE

The Bangladesh players ran towards the dugout and hugged the support staff, the team's fans celebrated an edge-of-the-seat victory against Zimbabwe at the Gabba on Sunday.

However, as the broadcasters got ready for the post-match presentation, the umpires called the players back. The Bangladesh players, bewildered, realised they had celebrated too early.

The giant screen revealed wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan had collected the last ball in front of the stumps. It was called a no-ball and Zimbabwe got a free hit.

Mosaddek Hossain, tasked with defending 15 runs in the final over, had to bowl one more delivery. Blessing Muzarabani swung but missed. Bangladesh, which had scored 150 for seven, won by three runs.

Sean Williams (64, 24b, 8x4) and Ryan Burl (27 n.o., 25b, 2x4, 1x6) were going strong. With 26 required off 12, a Burl single put Williams on strike. He took a couple and followed it up with a four. When it seemed Bangladesh was losing the plot, Shakib removed Williams with a direct hit at the bowler's end.

Richard Ngarava hit a six off Mosaddek in the final over, but Zimbabwe fell short. Earlier, Najmul Hossain Shanto (71, 55b, 7x4, 1x6) hammered his maiden T20I fifty.

Meanwhile in Perth, Pakistan's bowlers, led by spinner Shadab Khan, helped it hammer the Netherlands by six wickets for a first win at the World Cup, which kept its faint hopes of reaching the semi-finals alive.

The scores: Bangladesh 150/7 in 20 overs (Najmul Hossain 71, Richard Ngarava 2/24, Blessing Muzarabani 2/13) bt Zimbabwe 147/8 in 20 overs (Sean Williams 64, Taskin Ahmed 3/19, Mossadek Hossain 2/34). **MoM:** Taskin.

At Perth: Netherlands 91/9 in 20 overs (Colin Ackermann 27; Mohammad Wasim 2/15, Shadab Khan 3/22) lost to Pakistan 95/4 in 13.5 overs (Mohammad Rizwan 49; Brandon Glover 2/22). **MoM:** Shadab.

How they stand

GROUP 1	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
New Zealand	3	2	0	1	5	3.850
England	3	1	1	1	3	0.239
Ireland	3	1	1	1	3	-1.169
Australia	3	1	1	1	3	-1.555
Sri Lanka	3	1	2	0	2	-0.890
Afghanistan	3	0	1	2	2	-0.620

GROUP 2	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
South Africa	3	2	0	1	5	2.772
India	3	2	1	0	4	0.844
Bangladesh	3	2	1	0	4	-1.533
Zimbabwe	3	1	1	1	3	-0.050
Pakistan	3	1	2	0	2	0.765
Netherlands	3	0	3	0	0	-1.948

Sheldon and Unadkat star for Saurashtra

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Sheldon Jackson scored a fine half-century as Saurashtra edged past Kerala by nine runs in a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy pre-quarterfinal match at the Eden Gardens on Sunday.

Saurashtra will take on Mumbai, Punjab will meet Karnataka and Vidarbha will face Delhi in the quarterfinals on Tuesday.

Electing to bat, Saurashtra posted a formidable 183 for six. Sheldon (64, 44b, 4x4, 4x6) batted responsibly and joined hands with 'impact player' Vishvaraj Jadeja (31, 23b, 2x4, 1x6) to add 88 off 53 and ensure a big total for Saurashtra.

In reply, Kerala lost two wickets inside five overs before the experienced right-left combination of captain Sanju Samson (59, 38b, 8x4) and Sachin Baby (64 not out, 47b, 6x4, 2x6) forged a crucial 98-run stand off 65 balls.

After Samson fell to a loose shot off Prerak Mankad, Kerala, needing 55 off 29, faltered. Skipper Jaydev Unadkat's stingy 19th over, conceded only six runs, practically sealed the contest for Saurashtra.

The scores: Saurashtra 183/6 in 20 overs (Sheldon Jackson 64, Samarth Vyas 34, Vishvaraj Jadeja 31, Asif K.M. 3/33) bt Kerala 174/4 in 20 overs (Sachin Baby 64 n.o., Sanju Samson 59).
Punjab 176/7 in 20 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 64, Abhishek Sharma 55 n.o., Anshul Kamboj 3/25) bt Haryana 127/9 in 20 overs (Nishant Sindhu 42, Baltej Singh 3/20).
Chhattisgarh 111/9 in 20 overs (Umesh Yadav 3/27) lost to Vidarbha 112/5 in 18.4 overs (S.R. Ramaswamy 63).

Satwik-Chirag duo wins French Open title

Press Trust of India
PARIS

The star Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bagged the biggest title of their career, claiming the French Open Super 750 crown with a straight-game decimation of Chinese Taipei's Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han in the men's doubles final here on Sunday.

The World No. 8 pair, which had finished runner-up in the 2019 edition, rode on its formidable attack to outgun Lu and Yang, ranked 25th, 21-13, 21-19 in a summit clash that lasted 48 minutes.

The Indian duo continued its dream run this year, which has seen it win the Indian Open Super 500 title, Commonwealth Games gold, Thomas Cup crown and a bronze at the World Championships in August.

Masters of Paris: Chirag and Satwik outlasted Taipei's Lu and Yang in a 48-minute summit clash. GETTY IMAGES

The results (finals): Men: Viktor Axelsen (Den) bt Rasmus Gemke (Den) 21-14, 21-15; **Doubles:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt Lu Ching Yao & Yang Po Han (Tpe) 21-13, 21-19.

Women: He Bing Jiao (Chn) bt Carolina Marin (Esp) 16-21, 21-9, 22-20; **Doubles:** Tan Pearly & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) bt Mayu Matsumoto & Wakana Nagahara (Jpn) 21-19, 18-21, 21-15.
Mixed doubles: Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong (Chn) bt Robin Tabeling & Selana Piek (Ned) 21-16, 14-21, 22-20.

Sankar bags silver at BWF world juniors

Sports Bureau

Sankar Muthusamy's fine campaign at the BWF world junior badminton championships came to an end as the Indian lost to Kuo Kim Lin of Chinese Taipei 14-21, 20-22 in the final Santander, Spain, on Sunday. Sankar became the second Indian male to win a silver after Siril Verma in 2015.

Kuo unsettled Sankar with his fiery smashes from the back of the court. The Taipei boy ran a 13-9 lead.

Sankar fought back admirably to level the scores to 13-each, But, the Taipei lad won six straight points and didn't look back.

Kuo wasn't attacking as much as he did in the first game for a brief while even as the Indian was getting better with his short selection. Though Sankar came back to reduce the lead to 10-12, Kuo surged to 15-10.

Kuo raced away to a 17-13 lead. Trailing 14-20, Sankar saved six matchpoints, but Kuo closed out the match with his trademark cross-court smash.

Sankar... a remarkable campaign.

Spain gets the better of India

Sports Bureau

India fell to a 2-3 defeat to Spain in its second FIH Pro League game at Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

India shot-stopper Krishan Pathak made a string of saves on the evening to thwart Spain which had 13 shots at the goal.

In the second quarter, Spain scored from a penalty corner. Then in the 26th minute, Marc Miralles struck a powerful goal from a penalty corner.

India bounced back immediately through skipper Harmanpreet Singh.In the final quarter, India got the equaliser through the brilliance of Abhishek. But, Spain struck 45 seconds later through Marc Reyne.

The result: India 2 (Harmanpreet 26, Abhishek 54) 3 lost to Spain 3 (De Ignacio-Simo Eduard 16, Marc Miralles 26, Marc Reyne 56).

INBRIEF

Ledecky sets 1,500m freestyle short course World record

American Katie Ledecky set a World short-course record in the 1,500m freestyle on Saturday at a FINA World Cup meet in Toronto. Ledecky won in 15:8.24s to break the old mark of 15:18.01s set by Germany's Sarah Wellbrock in 2019 at Berlin. Brazil's Beatriz Dizotti was second in 15:48.82s with Canada's Laila Oravsky third in 16:16.86.

India to host four Challengers in 2023

The Indian tennis players can look forward to competing in four Challenger tournaments at home in the first quarter of 2023. The All India Tennis Association (AITA) secretary general Anil Dhupar said the ATP 100 Challengers, offering prize money of over $100,000 each, will be played in Bengaluru, Chennai and Pune. There will also be an ATP 50 Challenger, offering a prize purse of $37,520 in Nagpur in February.

Anusha's knock not enough as TN loses to MP

S. Anusha's half-century went in vain as Tamil Nadu lost to Madhya Pradesh by seven wickets in a pre-quarterfinal match of the senior women's T20 Trophy in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The scores: Tamil Nadu 117/7 in 20 overs (M.D. Thirushkamini 42, S. Anusha 50) lost to Madhya Pradesh 118/3 in 18.5 overs (Neha Badwaik 40, Reena Yadav 25).

Tripura 113/8 in 20 overs (N.N. Debnath 27, M.K. Rabidas 32) lost to Himachal Pradesh 115/3 in 16.1 overs (Sushma B. Verma 40 n.o., Harleen Deol 33).

Jharkhand 86/9 in 17 overs (Saika Ishaque 3/25) lost to Bengal 90/4 in 14.3 overs (Dhara Gujjar 49 n.o.).

LIVE TELECAST

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

ATP: Paris Masters, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3.30 p.m. onwards

Pro Kabaddi League: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m. onwards

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 11 p.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Once You Go Black wins Betway Mysore Derby 2022

Recognition: Mrs. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar presents the Betway Mysore Derby Trophy to Mr. Tegbir Singh Brar, joint owner of Once You Go Black. Mr. Y.B. Ganesh (chairman, Mysore Race Club), jockey Suraj Narredu and Trainer S. Padmanabhan on behalf of J.E. Mckeown, are also seen. M.A. SRIRAM

MYSURU: J.E. Mckeown-trained Once You Go Black (Suraj Narredu up) won the Betway Mysore Derby 2022, the stellar attraction of the races held here on Sunday (Oct. 30). The winner is owned by M/S. Diamond Band Racing Syndicate Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Shiven Surendranath, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha and Sarainaga Racing Pvt. Ltd.

Suraj, who rode confidently, kept his colt a handy fifth till 800m, then improved to be fourth at bend started manoeuvring his mount in the home stretch. Once You Go Black responded well to the reminders and overtook the leader Prague near 300m and won.

LEADING OWNER: Mr. Kersi H. Vachha (stakes money won ₹23,24,790); **HORSE OF THE SEASON:** Once You Go Black. **CHAMPION TRAINER:** M. Bobby (six wins); **CHAMPION JOCKEY:** S. Saqlain (14 wins); **CHAMPION JOCKEY CLAIMING ALLOWANCE:** S. Saqlain (14 wins). **LEADING BOOKMAKER:** M/S. Mikul & Co; **HIGHEST FIELD MONEY:** ₹11,62,850.

1. DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (Div. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **CHAIN OF THOUGHTS** (J.H. Arul) 1, Immortal Guest (Nazerul) 2, Regal Force (S. Saqlain) 3 and Scarlet Princess (P. Siddaraju) 4. 1-1/2, 3-1/2 and 3-1/4. 1m 12.49s. Rs. 31 (w), 13, 106 and 12 (p), SHP: 691, THP: 66, FP: 3,040, Q: 3,228, Trinella: 2,654 and 500. Favourite: Regal Force. Owners: M/s. Santhosh G & Francis Arun Kumar. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

2. DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (Div. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **ABLE ONE** (B.L. Paswan) 1, Rudram (G. Vivek) 2, Memorable Time (S. Saqlain) 3 and Mega Success (Jagadeesh) 4. Not run: Rightly Noble. 1-1/4, 2-1/4 and Nk. 1m 12.91s. Rs. 32 (w), 13, 36 and 15 (p), SHP: 163, THP: 50, FP: 1,026, Q: 446, Trinella: 1,800 and 519. Favourite: Able One. Owner: Mr. Savi K. Jain. Trainer: Azhar Ali.

3. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (Div. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **SERDAR** (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Tough Cookie (Sai Kiran) 2, The King N I (Salman K) 3 and Mystic Divine (Angad) 4. 3, 1-1/2 and 1/2. 1m 24.19s. Rs. 21 (w), 10, 16 and 19 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 56, FP: 41, Q: 18, Trinella: 171 and 120. Favourite: Serdar. Owner: Mr. Deepak Kumar. Trainer: G. Aravind.

4. ROYAL WESTERN INDIA TURF CLUB LTD. TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over: **SKYFIRE** (Shreyas S) 1, Mystic Eye (S. Saqlain) 2, Fernet Branca (J.H. Arul) 3 and Golden Vision (Suraj) 4. 2-1/4, Nk and 3. 1m 10.72s. Rs. 58 (w), 18, 12 and 28 (p), SHP: 37, THP: 68, FP: 274, Q: 121, Trinella: 1,383 and 2,023. Favourite: Mystic Eye. Owners: M/s. Harakchand C. Gandhi & Mr. P. Jayakumar. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

5. HYDERABAD RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), rated 60 to 85, 4-y-o & over: **EVALDO** (Akshay K) 1, Caracas (Trevor) 2, Peyo (Suraj) 3 and Extraordinary (Sai Kiran) 4. Not run: Thousand Words. 4-1/4, 3/4 and Lnk. 1m 22.29s. Rs. 20 (p), 12, 12 and 18 (p), SHP: 29, THP: 46, FP: 67, Q: 42, Trinella: 68 and 32. Favourite: Evaldo. Owners: Mr. K. Manoj Kumar & Mrs. Gaja Manoj. Trainer: Prasanna Kumar.

6. BANGALORE TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,200m), rated 80 & above: **THE SOVEREIGN ORB** (Shreyas S) 1, Tactical Command (Nazerul) 2, Golden Oaks (Salman K) 3 and Golden Guest (P.S. Chouhan) 4. 1/2, 1 and 1/2. 1m 09.94s. Rs. 36 (w), 11, 17 and 11 (p), SHP: 42, THP: 47, FP: 130, Q: 84, Trinella: 307 and 93. Favourite: Golden Oaks. Owners: Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep by. Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla, Mrs. Behroze Z. Poonawalla & Mrs. Simone Poonawalla Pandole, M/s. P. Prabhakar Reddy, Chandur-anga Kanthraj Urs & Rama Seshu Eyunni. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

7. BETWAY MYSORE DERBY 2022 (2,000m), 3-y-o only, (Terms): **ONCE YOU GO BLACK (WIN LEGEND-AKSINYA) SURAJ 1,**

Still I Rise (Chinese Whisper-For Sure) Akshay K 2,

Sucre (Sanus Per Aquam-Sugar Bay) P.S. Chouhan 3,

Salento (Speaking Of Which-Peninsula) Antony 4.

Shd, 4-3/4 and Lnk. 2m 02.62s. Rs. 21 (w), 11, 24 and 19 (p), SHP: 56, THP: 42, FP: 144, Q: 85, Trinella: 561 and 228. Favourite: Once You Go Black. Owners: M/S. Diamond Band Racing Syndicate Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Shiven Surendranath, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha and Sarainaga Racing Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: J.E. Mckeown.

8. ROYAL CALCUTTA TURF CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over: **KINGS SPEECH** (B. Nayak) 1, Gemini (Mukesh K) 2, Mr Humble (R. Pradeep) 3 and Smile Around (P. Siddaraju) 4. 1, 1-1/4 and 5-1/4. 1m 24.13s. Rs. 30 (w), 16, 15 and 106 (p), SHP: 53, THP: 312, FP: 96, Q: 51, Trinella: 2,040 and 1,596, Exacta: 11,118 (carried over). Favourite: Kings Speech. Owner: Mr. H.S. Chandre Gowda. Trainer: Mahmood Khan.

9. MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (Div. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **SOUTHERN FORCE** (Rayan) 1, Super Sexy (B. Darshan) 2, Klimt (Neeraj) 3 and War Trail (B.L. Paswan) 4. Snk, 5-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m 25.17s. Rs. 40 (w), 13, 25 and 11 (p), SHP: 63, THP: 56, FP: 333, Q: 285, Trinella: 687 and 171, Exacta: 2,756 and 1,181. Favourite: Klimt. Owners: Dr. Arun Raghavan & Mr. Dayanand Kachuwah. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

Jackpot: Rs. 3,668 (157 tkts); Runner-up: 287 (861 tkts); Treble (i): 506 (eight tkts); (ii): 634 (four tkts); (iii): 431 (12 tkts).

Nandhidhaa, Priyanka lead women's field

ASIAN CHESS

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

Decisive games involving the four leaders left P.V. Nandhidhaa and N. Priyanka leading the women's field at 4.5 points from five rounds of the Asian chess championship here on Sunday.

In the Open category, Harsha Bharathakoti nailed Kaustav Chatterjee to emerge as the only leader at 4.5 points while top seed R. Praggnanandhaa dropped a second draw in his campaign after facing Leon Mendonca.

Leading results (fifth round):

Open: R. Praggnanandhaa (4) drew with Leon Mendonca (4); Maksat Atabayev (Tkm, 4) drew with M. Karthikeyan (4); Harsha Bharathakoti (4.5) bt Koustav Chatterjee (3.5).

S. L. Narayanan (3.5) drew with M. Shyam Sundar (3.5); S. P. Sethuraman (4) bt Raja Ritvik (3); Aravindh Chithambaram (3.5) drew with Saparmyrat Atabayev (Tkm, 3.5); B. Adhiban (4) bt Sammed Shetye (3); Sanket Chakravarty (3) lost to Shamsiddin Vokhidov (Uzb, 4); Viani Antonio Viani (3.5) drew with Abhimanyu Puranik (3).

Women: P.V. Nandhidhaa (4.5) bt Vo Thi Kim Phong (Vie, 3.5); Soumya Swaminathan (3.5) lost to N. Priyanka (4.5); Nilufar Yakubbaeva (4) bt Saina Salonika (3); Mary Ann Gomes (3.5) bt Rakshitta Ravi (3); Tania Sachdev (3) drew with Nguyen Thi Mai Hung (Vie, 3); Liya Kurmangaliyeva (Kaz, 3) drew with Padmini Rout (3.5). Xeniya Balabayeva (3) drew with Vantika Agarwal (3); Sakshi Chitlange (2.5) lost to Divya Deshmukh (3.5); C. Sahajasri (3.5) bt Parnali Dharia (2.5); V. Varshini (3) drew with Amina Kairbekova (Kaz, 3).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Md. Suhail sparkles for Kickstart

Md. Suhail scored four goals as Kickstart FC blanked International FEP 8-0 in an under-18 match of the KSFA Youth Premier League being held here.

The results:

U-18: Raman SA 6 (Ayaan Baba 17, 40+1, B. Rohit 33, Stephen 39, Arjun Gouda 72, Jose Jacob 80+2) bt Mysore Vijayanagar FA 0.

BIFA 1 (Mohammed Anees 79) bt BYFL 0.

The Sports Sch 4 (Nirmanyu Atri 30, Arya Kashyap 34, 47, Sagar Rathod 75) bt South Castle United 0.

Kickstart FC 8 (R. Sachin 14, 71, Md. Suhail 19, 38, 48, 54, T. Premish 21, 58) bt International FEP 0.

U-11: Stadium FC 1 (Mangzael Gangte 2) bt BCFC 0; FCBU 6 (Vivan Raj Purohit 9, 17, 18, Samar Jahagirdhar 23, 31, 40) bt Young Blue 3 (Nouman Syed 6, 17, 27); Roots FC 4 (Yatharth 12, Agni 30, Yash 36, Tanav 38) drew with Conscient Football 4 (Saathvik Jiran 11, Dautham Vigil 19, Yuone Reddy 20, Thanush Kumar 33).

YBEFC 6 (Lian Christopher Lamb 4, Aaron Renjith 24, 30, Pranav Basava 27, Siddhartha Mohit 28, Noah Seejoy 32) bt MVSA 0; Shooterz FC 1 (Ballamudi Ruthwik Raj 25) drew with BYFL 1 (Vallabh Sahani 20).

Ronaldo FC 3 (Neil 9, Jai Surya 17, 27) bt Vicky FA 1 (Joshua Manoj 11; Alchemy Intl 2 (Areez Alam 28, Oscar Ningmaithen 43) bt BSSS 0; Sporthood 6 (Neel Shroff 1, 8, 50, Ranveer Singh 9, S. Syed Saheer 22, Samarat Thapa 34) bt FCBU 0.

U-9: Alchemy Intl 4 (Md. Ashif 7, 13, 30, 40) bt JSW BFC 3 (Shaurya Singh 16, 21, Dhadekar 24); Ronaldo FC 4 (Bhavish 19, 21, 22, 24) bt Raman SA 0.

Roots FC 4 (Dev Bagaria 7, Zayyed 13, Hansel 17, Darsh 27) bt GRK 0; BBFS 5 (Juhyamk 2, Anirudh 4, 30, 31, Prabhakar Pal (OG) 34) drew with MVFA 5 (Berniel 8, 32, 39, Ninov 18, Abhiroop 25).

BBFS 2 (Vignesh 22, Leenel Smith 35) drew with Vicky 2 (Sushil Suresh Kadtha 16, P. Rishiwin 34).

Watch My Stride should make amends

HYDERABAD: Trainer R.H. Sequeira's Watch My Stride, who ran third in his last start, should make amends in the Kuntala Water Falls Cup, the main event of the concluding day's races here on Monday (Oct. 31).

1 FAIR COURT PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m) Maiden, 3-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 12.50 p.m.: 1. Mr. Perfect (3) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. City Of Gravitas (4) Antony Raj 58.5, 3. Stoic Hero (8) Khurshad Alam 58.5, 4. Life's Living (2) A.A. Vikrant 58, 5. My Master (1) Gaurav Singh 58, 6. Exclusive Luck (6) Md. Ismail 57, 7. Honourable Lady (5) Santosh Raj 57, 8. Pancho (7) Abhay Singh 57 and 9. Chica Bonita (9) G. Naresh 56.

1. MY MASTER, 2. CITY OF GRAVITAS, 3. LIFE'S LIVING

2 KINNERASANI CUP (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 1.20: 1. Classy Dame (4) R.S. Jodha 60, 2. Cabello (5) Santosh Raj 59, 3. Doe A Deer (3) B.R. Kumar 56.5, 4. Hot Seat (1) A.A. Vikrant 56, 5. Silk (8) Koushik 56, 6. First Apostle (7) Rafique Sk. 51.5, 7. Inside Story (9) Gaurav Singh 51.5, 8. Life Is Good (2) Md. Ismail 51.5 and 9. China Town (6) Afroz Khan 50.

1. DOE A DEER, 2. CABELLO, 3. CLASSY DAME

3 MOSSY BEAR PLATE (1,600m), rated upto 25 (Cat. III) – 1.50: 1. My Grandeur (2) B. Nikhil 60, 2. Sweet Whisper (6) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Ella Eldingar (4) Kuldeep Singh 58.5, 4. My Way Or Highway (3) Mohit Singh 58, 5. Silver Lining (1) Rafique Sk. 58, 6. Red River (7) Afroz Khan 57.5 and 7. Silk Route (5) Mukesh Kumar 57.

1. SWEET WHISPER, 2. RED RIVER, 3. MY WAY OR HIGHWAY

4 FAIR COURT PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m) Maiden, 3-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 2.25: 1. Wind Sprite (8) Mukesh Kumar 60, 2. Star Medal (4) Kuldeep Singh 55, 3. Ilango (6) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 4. Precious Gift (1) Santosh Raj 54.5, 5. Lights On (2) R.S. Jodha 54, 6. Master Touch (7) Khurshad Alam 53.5, 7. N R I Fantasy (3) G. Naresh 53, 8. Picture Me (9) Aneel 53 and 9. Ayur Tej (5) Rafique Sk. 52.5.

1. PRECIOUS GIFT, 2. WIND SPRITE, 3. N R I FANTASY

5 KINNERASANI CUP (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.00: 1. Shazam (1) D.S. Deora 60.5, 2. Hashtag (4) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Gusty Note (6) A.A. Viktant 57.5, 4. Horse O' War (2) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Blue Label (9) Surya Prakash 54, 6. Sorry Darling (7) Rafique Sk. 7. Aiza (3) Aneel 53, 8. Janasu (8) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 9. Power Ranger (5) Gaurav Singh 51.5.

1. HORSE O' WAR, 2. SHAZAM, 3. HASHTAG

6 VIKARABAD PLATE (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.35: 1. City Of Blessing (6) Antony Raj 60, 2. Vintage Brut (9) Kiran Naidu 59, 3. Akido (8) Gaurav Singh 57.5, 4. Maximum Glamour (7) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 5. Castlerock (2) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 6. N R I Touch (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 7. Four One Four (10) Santosh Raj 54, 8. Painted Apache (1) Surya Prakash 54, 9. Star Babe (4) Abhay Singh 53 and 10. Campania (3) Afroz Khan 52.5.

1. N R I TOUCH, 2. CITY OF BLESSING, 3. AKIDO

7 KUNTALA WATER FALLS CUP (1,400m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II) – 4.10: 1. Premier Action (6) Mukesh Kumar 61, 2. Watch My Stride (11) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Staridar (1) Antony Raj 56.5, 4. Xfinity (5) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 5. Red Snaper (4) Kuldeep Singh 55, 6. Stunning Force (8) Md. Ismail 55, 7. Soloist (3) Abhay Singh 54, 8. N R I Sport (9) G. Naresh 53, 9. Chuckit (7) Surya Prakash 52, 10. Mirana (2) Gaurav Singh 51.5 and 11. Royal Grace (10) Afroz Khan 50.

1. WATCH MY STRIDE, 2. SOLOIST, 3. PREMIER ACTION

8 SURYAPET PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 4.45: 1. Bellagio (3) Mukesh Kumar 61.5, 2. Morior Invictus (12) Akshay Kumar 61.5, 3. Star Racer (4) Aneel 61, 4. Garnet (14) A.A. Vikrant 60, 5. Indian Temple (5) B. Nikhil 59, 6. Salisbury (13) B.R. Kumar 57.5, 7. Vision Of Rose (9) Koushik 57.5, 8. Royal Pal (2) R.S. Jodha 55, 9. Hoping Cloud (6) Mohit Singh 54, 10. Lady Dancer (10) D.S. Deora 53, 11. Archangels (7) G. Naresh 52, 12. Blazing Jupiter (8) Kuldeep Singh 52, 13. Aarya (1) Abhay Singh 51.5 and 14. Glimmer Of Hope (11) Afroz Khan 50.

1. MORIOR INVICTUS, 2. BELLAGIO, 3. ROYAL PAL

Day's best: **HORSE O' WAR.**

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Mini jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 5, 6, 7 & 8. Treble (i): 1, 2 & 3, (ii): 3, 4 & 5, (iii): 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Anna Muzychuk forces tie-breakers

Intense! Humpy and Anna engaged in the last-game battle of their quarterfinal match at Monte Carlo. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CANDIDATES CHESS

Sports Bureau

A draw would have taken her into the semifinals, but Koneru Humpy lost to Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk in the fourth and final classical game in the quarterfinal of the FIDE Women's Candidates chess tournament at Monte Carlo on Saturday.

That levelled the score at 2-2 and the match will now be decided in tie-breakers.

China's Lei Tingjie qualified for the semifinals, at the expense of Anna's younger sister Maria Muzychuk with the Chinese winning the match 2.5-1.5.

Humpy's hopes of a draw received a setback when she erred – from an equal position with black in their Petrov's Defence game – with her 'c' pawn push on the 22nd move.

Viswas delights for Ahura yet again

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Viswas Vijayaraj registered another double for Ahura Racing in the premier Formula LGB4 class on the final day of the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Sunday. The Nellore youngster, who took the early lead, defended his position well in a tight opening race.

Ahura's Amir Sayed finished second and defending champion Vishnu Prasad third.

Viswas went on to win the second race in style. Arya Singh and Ashwin Datta, who were in good form in the opening round, struggled a bit during the weekend but took the second and third spots behind Viswas.

Chetan Surineni was also on the double for Momentum Motorsports, topping the charts in both races in the JK Tyre Novice Cup.

On the podium: Viswas, third from right, flanked by Vishnu Prasad, left, and Sayed. Ahura's team mechanic Md. Kassim is seen next to Viswas. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT